

## Reagan warns Iran

SANTA BARBARA (R) — President Reagan warned Iran Saturday that threats and intimidation against non-combatant states in the Gulf could not be allowed. In his regular Saturday radio address, made while on holiday at his mountaintop ranch near here, Mr. Reagan pledged that the United States would stand by its security commitments in the region. He said stability and peace in the Gulf are the most important goals of his administration. "If we're going to make progress towards peace, we cannot permit extremists to set the agenda for us," he said. "We will stand by the security commitments we've made to our friends in the Gulf and elsewhere in the region." He said the United States favoured the peaceful resolution of conflicts and would continue diplomatic efforts in the United Nations and elsewhere to defuse tensions and seek a peaceful settlement of the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

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## Cabinet discusses encouraging investments

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Saturday discussed several issues related to a special panel set up for encouraging investments. The topics included setting up new industrial ventures as well as enlarging some existing industries. The Cabinet, during the ordinary session on Saturday chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, also discussed topics related to granting facilities and incentives for several industries in the Kingdom.

## Arab ministers to discuss Gulf situation

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Arab League foreign ministers will meet in special session on Aug. 23 in Tunis to discuss the situation in the Gulf area, league sources said Saturday. Tunisia called for the meeting last week, saying it was necessary to examine "the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq war, notably the danger of a widening of the conflict to neighbouring countries and the threat to the peace and stability of the region and the entire Arab World." Chadi Klibi, secretary-general of the Arab League, also has qualified the situation in the Gulf as "extremely disquieting and preoccupying." He communicated the Tunisian proposition to the organisation's 20 member countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the majority of which responded favourably.

## 2 dead, 2 missing in Cairo hotel fire

CAIRO (R) — Two people died and a man and his baby girl were reported missing when fire engulfed a floating hotel on the Nile River in Cairo Saturday, police said. Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Amin of the river police unit told reporters the blaze started in the hotel's souvenir shop when an overheated ventilator caught fire in the early morning. Ten people in the hotel at the time were rescued, he added. The two victims had not yet been identified. Hotel managers and co-owner Omar Abdul Nabi said the missing man was his brother-in-law.

## Commission to probe Waldheim past

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — A commission of military historians to investigate allegations that President Kurt Waldheim was linked with Nazi atrocities has been formed, but a Foreign Ministry announcement Saturday indicated it has attracted less members than planned. The commission, to be headed by Swiss military historian Hans-Rudolf Kurr, will include historians from Israel, the United States, Britain and West Germany, a Foreign Ministry press statement said. When Dr. Waldheim asked the government in May to form the commission, officials said there would be at least seven members.

## Turkish forces kill 2 Kurdish rebels

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Turkish armed forces on Saturday killed two Kurdish rebels suspected of involvement in the killing of 41 military and civilians, officials said. They said troops went to Akarsu village in Mardin province on the Syrian border after a tipoff and clashed with a group of three rebels.

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# More mines found off UAE after supply boat is blown to bits

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — A mine blew a boat to pieces at the main tanker anchorage outside the Gulf on Saturday and two more mines were spotted in the sea.

Port officials said the two mines were seen between the ports of Fujairah and Khor Fakkan in the area where the 45-metre supply boat Anita was destroyed by a mine. The explosion killed at least one crewman — the Indian chief engineer. Five people, including the British captain, were missing and five were sent to hospital in serious condition. A port official said all vessels had been warned to stay 16 kilometres clear of the Fujairah coastline which was now considered a dangerous area. Army helicopters and coast guard boats were monitoring the two mines, he added.

Fujairah on Monday and three more were detected drifting among anchored tankers. Two were detonated but the third went missing.

The Anita hit the mine 12 kilometres off the coast between Fujairah and Khor Fakkan, two big ports where dozens of tankers anchor before or after traversing the Strait of Hormuz at the entrance to the Gulf.

"It has been blown to bits," said one shipping source. Another commented: "When a boat this size hits a mine its bye-bye."

The Anita was the sixth vessel — four of them inside the Gulf and two outside — to hit a mine in the past three months.

At least one shipping company immediately ordered its surveyors to stop using launches and instead work from helicopters.

Reuters photographer Ulli

A mine damaged a tanker off

(Continued on page 3)

# Huge blast rocks Aramco gas plant at key Saudi oil complex

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — A huge explosion rocked a liquefied petroleum gas plant Saturday at a key Saudi Arabian oil complex on the Gulf.

Saudi officials blamed an electrical fault and said four people were injured in the early morning blast at the Arabian American Oil Co. (Aramco) facility. They drew a tight security cordon around the area.

Unofficial sources in the kingdom initially said seven to 22 people were killed and sabotage could not be ruled out, but they later said early reports of deaths could not be confirmed.

The plant is in the nation's eastern province, which has a large Shi'ite Muslim population that Iran has been trying to woo.

The blast at the Ju'aima plant shook houses within 24 to 29 kilometres. Firefighters battled the flames for six hours before bringing them under control.

A shipping executive who lives 29 kilometres away from the Aramco Oil Complex midway up the Gulf said the blast that shook the facility was "like a faint earthquake."

Some people said they heard two explosions. "The door vibrated as if a bomb had gone

off," said one resident.

Aramco employs thousands of Americans, but the U.S. State Department said none were injured at Ju'aima, which is near the main Saudi oil loading terminal at Ras Tanura and about 30 kilometres north east of Dharhan, capital of the eastern province.

Earlier this month the powerful parliament speaker in Iran, Hashemi Rafsanjani, called on Muslims throughout the world to overthrow the government of Saudi Arabia.

Security was stepped up Saturday and strict checks were mounted at all entrances to the big Aramco complex.

At mid-afternoon, residents were still calling police to ask if the explosion was caused by Iranian saboteurs. A few kilometres outside Ras Tanura, police turned back unauthorised civilian motorists.

In waters 200 kilometres northwest of Ras Tanura, a Saudi navy frogman was killed and another injured when they misjudged the safe distance from a mine being detonated after it was pulled out of the Gulf, the official Saudi Press Agency reported Saturday. The agency said the incident

occurred Wednesday.

Iran, meanwhile, is considering terrorist attacks on U.S. embassies and military bases around the world, the Los Angeles Times reported Saturday.

It quoted Robert E. Lamb, chief of the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security, as saying Iranian agents have been casing U.S. embassies in search of soft spots for attack.

An unidentified U.S. government official quoted by the newspaper said intelligence reports from many countries have indicated a sharp increase in Iranian terrorist planning.

Iranian navy gunboats intercepted and searched an unidentified oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz on Friday but allowed it to proceed after determining it contained no Iraq-bound cargo.

The state-run Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Cyprus, reported the interceptions only the day after.

Pentagon officials said the aircraft carrier group headed by the USS Constellation would be replaced in its station in the Arabian Sea by another group led by the carrier USS Ranger, probably at the end of this month.

## Suspects in attack on ex-minister in Cairo flee after shootout

CAIRO (Agencies) — A police officer died and three were wounded Saturday in a shootout with three suspects in a failed attempt to assassinate a former cabinet minister, the government said.

A statement from the Interior Ministry, which is responsible for public security, said the gunmen escaped from their hideout during the confusion. It said the injured policemen had only superficial wounds.

Inside the hideout, the statement said, police found evidence linking the gunmen with a shooting attack from a speeding car Thursday on the Cairo home of Nabawi Ismail, a former interior minister. Mr. Ismail was unhurt.

The hideout was a house near the barracks, about 30 kilometres north of Cairo.

The statement said police raided the house at dawn Saturday and "there was an exchange of fire with three suspects holed up inside." They "managed to escape, exploiting the police force's desire not to endanger the safety of innocent people at that place."

It did not explain, but the implication appeared to be that the police raiders had to hold fire at times to avoid hitting the suspects' neighbours.

Sources quoted by Reuters said the gunbattle erupted when police raided a doctor's clinic at Al Khorkaneya village.

The Interior Minister identified one of the suspects as Mohammad Kazem, a member of the Muslim fundamentalist clandes-

tine Atoneement and Flight Society implicated in the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat.

They said the suspects escaped by running through village lanes. Police found handguns, an automatic rifle, a revolver and ammunition inside the clinic.

They also seized a bag containing three letters, one addressed to Mr. Ismail saying: "We have carried out the operation and you will not be able to escape."

Investigators were probing possible links between the attack on Mr. Ismail and the shooting of Hassan Abu Basha, another former interior minister who was seriously wounded last May.

Mr. Ismail told the weekly Akhbar Al Yom newspaper that he had stepped out to the balcony with his son-in-law when the attackers opened fire.

"I rushed inside, taking cover behind the curtains while my son-in-law ran behind a wall. The shooting lasted about one minute," he said.

Mr. Ismail was minister in 1981 when then-President Sadat ordered a massive nationwide crackdown on political opponents and Muslim and Christian extremists after several sectarian clashes. Mr. Abu Basha was director of the state security department at that time and succeeded Mr. Ismail as minister the following year.

Both ministers were the targets of frequent tirades by Muslim extremists during trials that followed Mr. Sadat's assassination on Oct. 6, 1981.

# Northern Badia citizens elect new MP

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Citizens of the northern Badia region went to the polls Saturday to elect a new representative to the Lower House of Parliament and fill the seat made vacant by the passing of Deputy Saud Al Qadi earlier this year.

Polling began at 7 a.m., picking up pace in the morning hours then slowing around noon to pick up again later in the day at 11 voting centres in the north-eastern section of the Kingdom.

All five candidates confirmed to the Jordan Times that the by-election process was progressing in an orderly fashion in an atmosphere conducive to free voting.

Commenting on the process, Maftaq Governor Fayez Abbadi said that after seven hours of voting, polling was being conducted "in an atmosphere of democracy, calm and good order." He also praised "the

awareness of voters and their concern to cooperate in a brotherly fashion."

Mr. Abbadi had earlier met with the candidates, urging them to "have a healthy competition in a sportsmanship spirit."

Badia Forces and Border Guards Chief Colonel Fawaz Zaben said the by-election was conducted in a secure and democratic order. "The citizens were very cooperative and committed to the democratic process," he said.

A total of 15,812 citizens were eligible to vote in the by-election which extended 12 hours between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. People were converging to 27 polling centres with the biggest turnout near the end of the voting, according to polling officials. The final results were expected to be announced at about midnight.

By 5 p.m., 7,456 votes had been cast out of the registered 15,812.

Mr. Abbadi said arrangements and preparations taken by the

Ministry of Interior and his office contributed to a peaceful polling process. The voters are mostly from Bedouin tribes residing in several settlements in the northern region including Bani Khaled, Al Sarhan, Al Sardieh, Al Athamat, Al Sharafat, Al Massaid, Al Issa and Al Tawabesh.

Five candidates ran in the by-election after three others withdrew before election time. The remaining candidates in the race were Nawaf Al Qadi, Mahdi Al Sameirani, Mohammad Al Murar, Hassan Nazzal and Sitan Al Madi.

According to Mr. Fayez, 14 committees were counting the votes Saturday evening.

The Interior Ministry announced Saturday that committees charged with re-drafting the final voter lists for the forthcoming general elections have concluded their work and that voter lists would be displayed for the public in all governorates.

A ministry spokesman quoted by Petra said the voter lists would be made public for a period of 10 days.

## Nawaf Al Qadi declared winner

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nawaf Al Qadi won Saturday's election for a vacant seat in the Lower House of Parliament representing the northern Badia region in Maftaq Governorate. Maftaq Governor Fayez Al Abbadi announced Saturday night. Mr. Qadi secured 3,929 votes out of a total of 8,457 votes cast.

He was declared winner after 10 days.

Ministry Under Secretary Ahmad Aqailah said Wednesday that voter cards would be issued in September by the ministry through its various committees in different regions. According to the 1986 elections law, no one can vote in a general election without the voter card, which provides information about the identity of voters and their constituencies. The cards will be valid for 10 years.

# Mubarak rejects Shamir's proposal saying int'l conference is the only way to peace

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak rejected on Saturday a proposal by Israel's prime minister for regional peace talks to the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

Mr. Mubarak obtained support for the conference idea last September in a summit meeting with Mr. Shamir's predecessor, Shimon Peres, now Israel's foreign minister. The United States, which has opposed a role for the Soviets in the Middle East, endorsed it this year with reservations.

"Without this (conference), the escalation we are witnessing will continue," Mr. Mubarak said Saturday. "Violence and extremism will increase, the voices advocating peace will drop and the region will proceed once more along the path of war and destruction."

"Therefore, we reject the other alternatives advanced by some people for one reason or another, and we regard them as an attempt

to evade the responsibility of peace," Mr. Mubarak said.

Mr. Shamir sent his proposal for regional peace talks to Mr. Mubarak last month, according to the Israeli leader's spokesman, Avi Pazner.

Pazner said on July 30 that Mr. Shamir asked Mr. Mubarak to invite him and Jordan to meet in Egypt to prepare for peace talks grouping Egypt, Israel, a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and U.S. representatives.

Mr. Shamir strongly opposes an international conference, which he fears would force the Jewish state to return the occupied territories.

Mr. Peres has been pushing for an international parity but insists that it serve only as a launching pad for direct talks between Israel and the Arabs.

Turning to the Gulf war, Mr. Mubarak called Saturday on Iraq and Iran to accept the latest resolution of the U.N. Security

Council, which "provides for a balanced formula to stop the fighting and end the war."

"The president also condemned 'desecration of the Grand Mosque in Mecca' by Iranian rioters who clashed with Saudi security forces July 31. The Saudis said 402 people were killed in the fighting, 275 of them Iranians."

Mr. Mubarak did not explicitly blame Iran for the riots in his speech, but earlier official statements in Cairo did so.

"This (rioting) was a breach of the sovereignty of sister Saudi Arabia over its territory and its responsibility for security within its borders," Mr. Mubarak said.

"This flagrant threat went beyond Saudi Arabia and became a threat to our brothers in the Arab countries in the Gulf."

On Aug. 2, Mr. Mubarak proposed an emergency Islamic summit to consider the Mecca violence. He reiterated the proposal on Saturday.

## Sheikh Zayed begins talks with Assad

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan on Saturday discussed with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad the latest developments in the Gulf region and the Iran-Iraq war.

Syria is Iran's main Arab ally, and has recently been trying to cool down Iran's campaign against Arab states in the Gulf.

Sheikh Zayed, leading a big delegation, arrived Saturday and was greeted at Damascus airport by Mr. Assad and key aides, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported. The aides included Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Mohammad Zuhair Masbaha, as well as Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Al Kasm and Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa.

The two leaders drove in an official motorcade to the Tishrin Palace where they held a meeting attended by officials of the two countries, SANA added. It gave no other details.

Arab diplomatic sources here said the "talks were about the situation in the Gulf area and the Iran-Iraq war."

Syria, though linked in an alliance with Iran, has warned against the expansion of the Gulf war.

Omrane Adham, a Paris-based Syrian businessman who is a close confidant of Mr. Assad, said early this month in an interview that the president "has assured all the Gulf (Arab) states that Syria will always effort not to let the scale of the war get wider."

He said, "If Iran attacks, Syria will fight next to other Arab states against Iran."

The visit came as the United Arab Emirates politely rejected an Iranian offer to clear mines in UAE territorial waters where several mines have been discovered in the past few days.

## Syrians seek to end Amal-PLO battles

SIDON (R) — Syrian military observers on Saturday intervened to stem the fiercest battles in four months around Palestinian refugee camps east of the South Lebanon port of Sidon, security sources said.

The sources said a Lebanese man had been killed and nine people injured in the past 48 hours, including five Palestinians and three Amal militiamen.

Amal fighters and Palestinians defending the camps exchanged mortar bombs, rockets and heavy machine-gun fire. For the first time, flares were used to light up the battlefield at night.

The fighting was the worst since April when Syrian troops helped end a six-month outbreak of the bloody "camps war" around five Palestinian camps in Beirut and South Lebanon.

Syrian troops are deployed in and around the Beirut camps but at the moment are present only as far as the northern entrance to Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

Syrian military observers met officials of Lebanese Islamic and leftist parties and Palestinian factions to try to stem the latest fighting-as sporadic clashes flared Saturday.

Both sides blamed the other for starting the clashes by sniping at opposing positions.

Observers said the fighting had its roots in tension from the earlier camps war battles, which killed at least 900 people and in which some camps suffered siege, hunger and disease.

Amal, with Syrian backing, says it has fought to curb the growing influence of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) fighters loyal to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Of about 2,000 guerrillas among the 70,000 Palestinians living in the Ain Al Hilweh camp and other camps east of Sidon, two-thirds are Arafat loyalists, the observers said.

The Palestinians say Amal wants to expel them from Lebanon in order to clear the way for a

Shi'ite canton.

A main irritant in the clashes east of Sidon is high ground captured by Palestinian forces near the camps last year. The Palestinians have withdrawn from some positions but say they will stay in others for security reasons.

## Shelling in Beirut

In Beirut, police said a lull of several months in cross-city shelling was broken by a salvo of missiles that slammed into rightist-held areas north of the capital. No casualties were reported.

The Voice of Lebanon radio said 24 Grad rockets were fired from the southern suburbs across the old "green line" battlefield that divides the city into mainly Christian eastern and predominantly Muslim halves.

The rockets were fired from a truck-mounted multi-barreled rocket launcher, a short police statement said.

## 63 S.African miners held after clash

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies)

— Sixty-three black miners were arrested after the worst clash in South Africa's biggest wages strike, a union spokesman said Saturday.

In a separate incident not connected with the mine strike 370 people were arrested for obstruction outside a post office in Pietermaritzburg, Durban province, police said.

Marcel Golding, spokesman of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), which began the strike last Sunday, told reporters 63 strikers were held on Friday after a clash in which 76 people were hurt.

The fighting at the Western Deep Levels gold mine west of Johannesburg, during which police fired rubber bullets at a machete-wielding crowd, was the most serious in the increasingly violent strike against white-controlled companies.

A further 27 miners were hurt on Friday at a colliery at Middleburg, east of Johannesburg, bringing the casualty toll for the strike to more than 225 injured and one dead.

Spokesmen for the Chamber of Mines, which groups six of the mining houses hit by the strike by over 300,000 gold and coal miners, said Friday they were not going to make any new wage offers to the NUM, which is seeking a 30 per cent increase.

The mining companies have offered increases of between 15 and 23.4 per cent.

The chamber said it was prepared to negotiate other issues such as death benefits.

But Golding told reporters the union was interested in talking only about the entire package of disputed issues, including wages and danger pay.

Peter Gush, managing director of Anglo American Corporation's gold and uranium division, said the company would not discuss the union demands for a 30 per cent wage hike, but was willing to talk about "other issues." He did not specify what

the other issues might include.

Mr. Gush made his comments in an interview Friday with the government-run South African Broadcasting Corporation.

An estimated 335,000 miners were on strike in South Africa's largest legal walkout, a university-based group of labour specialists said Friday. The NUM puts the number at 340,000.

The Chamber of Mines, which represents the targeted mining houses, said the strike involves about 240,000 workers and affects 33 mines.

In other developments, Anglo American, which produced 39 per cent of South Africa's gold last year, again announced its intention to close its Vaal Reef, gold mine employing 2,000 workers, unless strikers return to work by Tuesday.

The company, which has said the mine is operating at a loss, said Saturday in a statement that the strike was making it "uneconomic to continue operations."



# Chad: 170 Libyans killed in bid to retake Aouzou

**N'DJAMENA, Chad (Agencies) —** The Chadian military command said Saturday that 170 Libyans were killed and 54 taken prisoner when government forces repulsed a Libyan attack on the town of Aouzou in extreme northern Chad.

A statement from the military high command read over state-run Radio N'Djamena said 48 Libyans were also captured during the attempt to retake the town, the administrative capital of a 110,000-square-kilometre stretch of desert claimed by both Libya and Chad.

It put the casualty figures on the government side at one dead and 16 wounded.

The town of Aouzou was partly destroyed by Libyan bombings following its capture last weekend by Chad after a 14-year Libyan occupation.

According to N'Djamena, 650 Libyans were killed and 147 captured when the Chadian army moved northwards to retake Aouzou on Aug. 8.

Chad said Libya has been carrying out daily air attacks over much of northern Chad since the loss of Aouzou.

A military communiqué read over N'Djamena Radio Friday night said Libyan air and ground forces launched the attack early Thursday morning. It said it was Libya's first attempt to recapture Aouzou since the town fell to President Hissène Habré's troops.

The capture of Aouzou marked the climax of an eight-month ground offensive by President Habré's experienced desert warriors to drive Libya to the southern edge of its borders.

Libya has said it is determined to retake the border strip, which it maintains is an integral part of Libya under a treaty signed by colonial powers France and Italy in 1935, but never ratified.

Chad said Libyan warplanes crossed the 16th parallel for the first time in several months on Tuesday to attack a government outpost 500 kilometres north-east of N'Djamena.

France, which has combat aircraft and 1,200 men in southern Chad, has until recently regarded the 16th parallel as the northern limit of its military action in its former colony.

Since the capture of Aouzou, France has turned down an appeal from Chad to provide air cover for its troops under Libyan bombardment.

The French government has repeatedly said it favours international arbitration for the settlement of the border dispute between Chad and Libya.

But on Tuesday, the day of the Libyan air raid, French Defence Minister André Giraud restated France's pledge to defend Chad's territorial integrity and said it was not ruling out the use of military force to do so.

The extensive exercises are seen as a test of America's ability to defend its allies in the region while upgrading the efficiency of Egypt's armed forces in the use of advanced U.S. military equipment.

Egyptian military sources said the troops, about 9,000 U.S. Marines and an equal number of Egyptians, were in place for the first stage of the exercises to be conducted in scorching terrain at temperatures of around 35 Centigrade (95 Fahrenheit).

Neither the U.S. embassy nor the Egyptian Defence Ministry issued a communiqué announcing the start of the games, which rated no mention in the semi-official Cairo press.

A U.S. embassy spokesman said he could not confirm that the exercises had started as scheduled and repeated only that they would last five days.

Opposition newspapers, which have in the past viewed the manoeuvres as a condition for about \$1.2 billion of U.S. annual military aid to Egypt, made no mention of the exercises.

The first stage of the exercises with live ammunition will start Sunday when the joint troops practice target shooting in the Gebel Hamza area, according to a programme issued before the invitations to the press were rescinded.

Brightstar exercises have been held every two years since 1981 and include mock heavy bombing raids, American troop landings on the coast near Alexandria and artillery attacks using live ammunition on dummy targets.

The U.S. aircraft carrier Saratoga, which last week ended a friendly port of call at the Mediterranean port of Alexandria, will have a support role in the exercises.

The United States replaced the Soviet Union as Egypt's main arms supplier after the late President Anwar Sadat expelled thousands of Soviet military experts in the early 1970s.

## Egyptian, U.S. troops ready for exercises

**CAIRO (R) —** A joint force of nearly 20,000 U.S. Marines and Egyptian troops took up position in scorching desert terrain Saturday at the start of five-day war games held under a cloud of secrecy.

The Egyptian government ordered a news blackout on the manoeuvres in Egypt's western desert not far from the border with Libya. It also excluded military attaches from the air, land and sea exercises, codenamed Brightstar 1987.

Libya, with which Egypt fought a brief border war in 1977, has in the past referred to the Brightstar manoeuvres, held every two years, as provocative.

Western diplomats said they believed Cairo, a key U.S. ally, cancelled news coverage to avoid publicity as the manoeuvres coincided with the buildup of Western forces in the Gulf to protect shipping.

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## Lebanese presidential election battle opens

**BEIRUT (R) —** Candidates need not know how to fly a combat helicopter, but it is a skill the winner of Lebanon's looming presidential election might wish to acquire.

The wary incumbent, President Amin Gemayel, usually swoops to his hilltop palace outside Beirut at the controls of a Gazelle helicopter, with machine-guns ready at its doors.

There is a tremendous danger with the job," said Dany Chamoun, son of former President Camille Chamoun and the first to declare his candidacy for the election one year from now.

"But I am liable to be attacked anyway as a party leader, so it makes no difference," he told Reuters at his office in a shell-chewed building sealed off by gunmen and concrete blocks.

While the Lebanese public talks of little besides inflation, newspapers have declared that the election battle is open.

Syria, Israel, militias and chief power centres like the church — the president is a Maronite Christian in Lebanon's sectarian system — are already manoeuvring their men into position, commentators say.

Lebanon's parliament elects the president either by a two-thirds majority in a first round or by a simple majority in a run-off. The last elections to the 99-seat assembly were in 1972 and 83 members survive. No parliamentary elections are scheduled.

Chamoun, 53 and leader of the National Liberal Party, says he expects to face 20 competing candidates.

To an outsider, it might seem strange that anyone would be prepared to spend up to \$5 million and endure intense levantine intrigues to arrive at such a hazardous post.

Attacks on Mr. Gemayel during his controversial six-year term have so far ranged from vitriolic public insults from rival leaders to frontal military assaults.

In 1983, elite army units blocked attacking Druze troops just four kilometres from Mr. Gemayel's palace and in 1986 other Syrian-backed forces tried to take his mountain hometown of Bikfaya.

Shelling of the palace, a constant danger, has killed two palace guards so far and injured many more. In 1985, Grad rockets slammed into Mr. Gemayel's living quarters metres from where he stood, covering the president with dust and glass splinters.

One of Mr. Gemayel's bodyguards was killed in shooting at his official limousine. Mr. Gemayel, who was not inside, often sends decoy convoys in different directions before driving off at the wheel of a randomly chosen car.

"The head of his guard is left tearing his hair out," said one aide.

Mr. Gemayel, elected in 1982 after the murder in a bomb blast of his brother President-elect Bashir Gemayel, says he would not stand for re-election in 1988 even if he could.

"One term of office suffices me. I wouldn't wish my worst enemy to be in my place," he said in a 1986 interview.

Civil war has brought mounting militia encroachments on state authority, and Mr. Gemayel does not even feel he can safely use Beirut airport.

The president has only once been to South Lebanon, rarely to North Lebanon, never to east Lebanon and can no longer visit the mainly Muslim western half of the capital.

Mr. Gemayel is mostly confined to the Christian enclave of east Beirut and the coastal mountains to the north of the capital.

He spends most of his time at home or in his palace, to which he has added a swimming pool, tennis court and full computerisation.

But the presidency still offers social and political leadership of the Christian community and remains a potentially powerful post through its links with the army, police and remnants of the state apparatus.

Presidents keep prestige and the title for life — so important that in the 1950s President Camille Chamoun once kicked his prime minister in the parliament lobby for not using it when talking to him.

Mr. Gemayel — identified by the opposition with the Falange Party founded by his late father — has also continued to manage his successful business interests.

But the only sign of special use of public funds is the wide highway Lebanese presidents traditionally build to their home towns.

Election talk has sparked rumours of possible violence, with memories going back to the election years of 1958, 1976 and 1982, as the United States, Syria and Israel successively acted to impose their wills on the small, unruly country.

The Americans sent Marines to support Mr. Chamoun's father in 1958 and Mr. Chamoun says he counts on Western support to boost his strongly anti-Syrian platform.

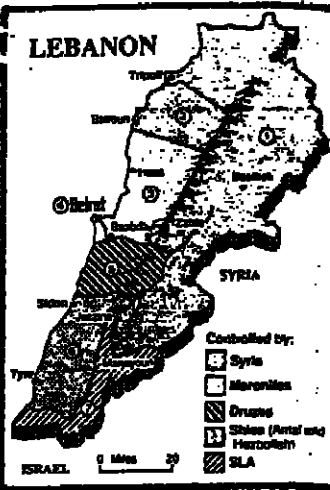
Syrian troops occupy three-quarters of Lebanon and Mr. Chamoun reckoned Syria controlled the election votes of four-fifths of the parliamentary deputies.

Diplomats doubt the West has the desire or will to intervene, chastened by its experiences in 1982-84 when Lebanese groups backed by Syria and Iran forced the withdrawal of a U.S.-led Multinational Force that failed to help Mr. Gemayel extend his authority.

Fears of violence also stem from the further polarisation of Lebanese politics. Some opposition militia leaders have said they want a Muslim to be Lebanon's next president, the eighth since independence from France in 1943.

But political sources say any constitutional reforms and progress towards resolving Lebanon's 12-year-old conflict will now probably have to wait until a new president has been elected.

Mr. Gemayel, who has tended to represent the hardline Christian community in peace talks, "takes pride that he has said no to both Syria and Israel," a close adviser said, adding: "He is not about to make major compromises in his last year in office."



LEBANON

Constituted by: Syria, Lebanon, Druze, Christians, Muslims, and others.

Scale: 1:100,000

Source: CIA World Factbook

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## Shamir: No harm to U.S. ties if Lavi continues

**TEL AVIV (R) —** Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Saturday Israel's relations with Washington would not suffer if the government voted Sunday to continue its costly Lavi fighter project despite mounting U.S. pressure.

Shamir, who supports the project, said in an interview with state-run Israel Radio:

"It is possible to understand the need and right of our important American partner to express its opinion and to request from its Israeli partner consideration of its opinion."

"But I do not see in this pressure or irregularity in relations between allies and I think relations will continue to be good and friendly after a decision is taken."

## Israeli police, orthodox Jews clash

**TEL AVIV (AP) —** Police used tear gas grenades and detained six people who participated in a violent demonstration of ultra-orthodox Jews in which a secular woman was injured before dawn Saturday.

The protest of ultra-orthodox Jews was sparked by their demand to stop the screening of films on Friday night, which they view as a desecration of the Jewish Sabbath, said Jerusalem police spokesman Rafi Levy.

Levy said hundreds of ultra-orthodox Jews hurled stones and glass bottles at vehicles and passers-by at Jerusalem's orthodox Mea Shearim quarter.

He said one car was damaged, its windows smashed and its woman driver lightly injured by a stone.

Police used tear gas grenade to disperse the ultra-orthodox protesters and detained six of them, he said.

The protest started at about 0300 a.m. and lasted for about two hours, Levy said in a telephone interview.

Earlier, several dozen police-

men in riot gear were seen near Mea Shearim, while about a hundred ultra-orthodox men in long black coats and black hats gathered at the quarter's central Sabbath Square.

The ultra-orthodox encircled a reporter and prevented him from staying in the area, some tugging at the bag he was carrying on his shoulder.

According to Jewish law, any form of work, including carrying a weight or driving a car, is not allowed on Sabbath. It also prohibits opening entertainment spots, including restaurants, on Sabbath.

Last Friday, hundreds of ultra-orthodox and secular Jews clashed near the Beit Agron theatre in west Jerusalem, where a film was screened. Police used tear gas to disperse the two groups.

Next day, about 2,500 ultra-orthodox protesters rallied near the Beit Agron theatre and blocked a main traffic artery to protest the screening.

The management of Beit Agron decided to shut the theatre down this Friday, Israel Radio said. But at the Jerusalem Cinematheque, a movie was screened Friday night.

"When people started saying we were giving in to the Haredim, we decided to show a movie," Ilan De-Vries, the theatre's deputy director, was quoted as saying by the Jerusalem Post newspaper.

The Cinematheque was packed Friday night, and several hundred secular Jews demonstrated outside the theatre against the Haredim or "the God-fearing" as the ultra-orthodox Jews call themselves.

"The secular demonstrators behaved very well. They demonstrated in small groups and it was very quiet," Levy said.

Municipal authorities have said city regulations ban the showing of films on Sabbath. But Israel's Mayor of Jerusalem Teddy Kollek said this week he is considering options that would enable Jerusalem residents to enjoy leisure activities on Sabbath without going to Tel Aviv, the Post said.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Friday told reporters the project must continue if the money could be found in the budget. He said continued development would cost Israel an additional \$550 million a year.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the army's chief of staff have warned continuation of the project could endanger Israeli security by taking money from other defence projects.

They say the country should invest in a less costly U.S. alternative, such as American-made F-16 fighters.

A U.S. embassy spokesman said he could not confirm that the exercises had started as scheduled and repeated only that they would last five days.

Opposition newspapers, which have in the past viewed the manoeuvres as a condition for about \$1.2 billion of U.S. annual military aid to Egypt, made no mention of the exercises.

The first stage of the exercises with live ammunition will start Sunday when the joint troops practice target shooting in the Gebel Hamza area, according to a programme issued before the invitations to the press were rescinded.

Brightstar exercises have been held every two years since 1981 and include mock heavy bombing raids, American troop landings on the coast near Alexandria and artillery attacks using live ammunition on dummy targets.

The U.S. aircraft carrier Saratoga, which last week ended a friendly port of call at the Mediterranean port of Alexandria, will have a support role in the exercises.

The United States replaced the Soviet Union as Egypt's main arms supplier after the late President Anwar Sadat expelled thousands of Soviet military experts in the early 1970s.

The Egyptian government ordered a news blackout on the manoeuvres in Egypt's western desert not far from the border with Libya. It also excluded military attaches from the air, land and sea exercises, codenamed Brightstar 1987.

Libya, with which Egypt fought a brief border war in 1977, has in the past referred to the Brightstar manoeuvres, held every two years, as provocative.

Western diplomats said they believed Cairo, a key U.S. ally, cancelled news coverage to avoid publicity as the manoeuvres coincided with the buildup of Western forces in the Gulf to protect shipping.

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## Velayati in Oman for talks

**NICOSIA (R) —** Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati travelled to Oman Saturday for talks on the Gulf crisis, Tehran Radio said.

The radio said the visit by Mr. Velayati and a political delegation responded to an official invitation.

"Bilateral relations, regional matters and the Gulf will be discussed," said Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia.

Oman is the southernmost member of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) whose territory includes the Musandam peninsula opposite Iran at the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran has sent a minesweeping force to international waters in the Gulf of Oman.

Tehran has repeatedly called for southern GCC member states to ask foreign naval forces to leave the Gulf area. It says U.S., British and French forces may cause the Iran-Iraq war to spread to the southern Gulf.

Mr. Velayati said on arrival in Muscat that he was carrying a message to Sultan Qaboos of Oman from Iranian President Ali Khamenei, the Omani News Agency reported.

Iran and Oman signed an agreement in May to expand bilateral ties and step up cooperation.

A visit by Mr. Junblatt to Tehran, the Iranian capital, was "not unlikely," reported the Ash Shira'a magazine.

"Such a visit will be only carried out when Junblatt realises that he would return with a positive outcome regarding Terry Waite's fate," the Beirut-based weekly said. It did not disclose further details.

Mr. Waite, personal emissary of Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, disappeared on Jan. 20 after he left a west Beirut hotel to negotiate with pro-Iranian kidnappers of foreign hostages. He was not escorted by his Druze bodyguards when he disappeared.

No group has claimed responsibility for holding Mr. Waite.

Archbishop Runcie has written to Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, requesting his help in locating Mr. Waite. Mr. Junblatt has accused the Iranian-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah, or Party of God, of holding the envoy.

Hezbollah, which is made up of radical Shi'ite Muslim extremists loyal to Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, has denied the charge.

Lebanese and Foreign security officials believe Hezbollah is an umbrella for several Iranian-backed, hostage-holding Shi'ite factions, including the shadowy Islamic Jihad, or Islamic holy war. Islamic Jihad holds two Americans and at least three French captives.

There have been press reports that Mr. Waite had died of a heart attack during captivity, or that he had been shot and wounded. One report claimed Mr. Waite was transferred to Iran, which Iranian officials denied. None of the reports could be confirmed.

Ash-Shira'a gained fame after it disclosed the report of clandestine U.S. arms sales to Iran. However, its reports about foreigners missing in Lebanon have recently been controversial.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Chamber of Industry celebrates silver jubilee

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry will celebrate its 25th anniversary (silver jubilee) in mid September. The chamber's Director Mohammad Saleh Jaber said the celebration will include the opening of a permanent exhibition of national industries at the chamber's headquarters and the opening of a monument at the Second Circle area which was offered as a gift by the chamber on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's 50th birthday. During the celebrations, the chamber's medals and shields will be presented to various economic and industrial firms and organisations in recognition of their role in raising the standard of national industry.

## Lower House speaker receives Iraqi message

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayed received a verbal message from the Speaker of the Iraqi National Council Sa'doun Hamadi. The message was delivered to Mr. Fayed Saturday by the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Amman. During the meeting, they also reviewed bilateral relations in all fields.

## AOAS begins administrative study

AMMAN (Petra) — A specialised working team from the Amman-based Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences (AOAS), in cooperation with the Jordanian government on Saturday began a two-week study on training needs related to the administrative development committee. Director of the AOAS Consulting Department Dr. Hisham Gharaibeh said the team will determine certain training courses to qualify graduates and improve staff efficiency at the government sector. Dr. Gharaibeh pointed out that the organisation continuously provides Arab member states with certain forms to specify their needs in the fields of training and consultations.

## JPRC reports increase in sales

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) over the past seven months sold JD 1,936,646 tonnes of fuel, registering an increase of one per cent over last year's sales from the same period. JPRC sources said the company's sales in the first seven months of 1987 rose mainly because of an increase in the sale of kerosene and diesel oil.



His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah participating in Friday's Tal-Al Rumman Hill Climb. His Majesty and His Highness won an award for best team effort at the awards ceremony held last night at the RAC (Petra photo).

## King, Prince receive special trophy for best team effort in Hill Climb

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah on Saturday received a special trophy for best team effort during Friday's Tal-Al Rumman Hill Climb.

The father and son were met by a cheering audience as the Royal Jordanian President Ali Ghandour handed the trophy over to

the team, which is named after the national carrier, during a special ceremony at the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RAC). Her Majesty Queen Noor delivered trophies to Amer Bilbeisi, who won the Hill Climb with a time of 2:16:37, and Prince Abdullah who finished second in an Opel Manta 400 and third in a BMW M3.

Driving his Porsche 904, former record holder King Hussein

had covered the same distance in 2:21:09 in 1966. He took part informally in Friday's race and placed 12th among 76 entries with a time of 2:28:36 in his Lotus Esprit.

The King, accompanied by the Queen, drove in an old golden Buick convertible to the RAC. The event was co-sponsored by the RAC and the Jordan Ice and Aerated Water Company.

## Pakistan's independence celebrated in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Pakistan's Ambassador to Jordan Saqib Hussain on Saturday held a reception marking the 40th anniversary of Pakistan's independence day.

The reception, held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), was attended by Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib and a number of senior civil and military officials.

Prior to the reception, speeches were delivered by Mr. Khatib, Ambassador Hussain, and a number of Jordanian speakers.

Mr. Khatib conveyed to the Pakistani envoy His Majesty King Hussein's greetings to the Pakis-

tani leader and people and wishes for further prosperity and development.

In return, Mr. Hussain praised the strong Pakistani-Jordanian ties and described bilateral relations as "excellent."

In his speech, the Pakistani ambassador also reiterated Pakistan's strong support for Arab rights in Palestine. He called on the good-will mission mediating between Iraq and Iran to continue their efforts to put an end to the Gulf war.

A film on Pakistan's socio-economic and technological development was also displayed during the reception.

## Bulgarian officials visit University of Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Bulgarian delegation led by Mr. Christo Santov, ambassador at the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry, Saturday visited the University of Jordan and met its acting president Marwan Kamal.

They reviewed cultural and scientific cooperation between the University of Jordan and Bulgarian Educational Institutions.

Both sides also voiced their desire to promote such cooperation and to exchange information and expertise related to higher education.

The Bulgarian delegation was also briefed on the university's development and programmes.

Last week, Jordan and Bulgaria signed an agreement calling for increased cultural cooperation. Under the agreement, which was signed by Mr. Santov and Jordanian officials, both sides will expand cooperation between their respective universities and will exchange information, documents and expertise related to educational systems.

They also pledged to offer one another scholarships and to cooperate in art, archaeology and culture.

Both sides will also encourage their respective news agencies to exchange news, films and expertise.

## Princess Alia inaugurates exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Alia on Saturday inaugurated an art exhibition displaying the works of Jordanian artist Riham Al Ghassib.

The week-long display, staged at the Royal Cultural Centre, includes 60 paintings depicting various aspects of Jordanian life.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by a number of art enthusiasts.

## Health ministry opens centres

ZARQA (Petra) — The Ministry of Health will open a number of health care centres and clinics throughout the Kingdom's various densely populated areas, according to Zarqa Governorate Health Department Director Noufan Al Hmoud.

At the completion of an inspection tour throughout the governorate, Mr. Hmoud said on Thursday that these centres will offer citizens comprehensive medical treatment in Jordan.

Mr. Hmoud was also briefed by a number of officials responsible for health schemes here about the needs for human resources, medical equipment and medicine to offer the people basic health care and vaccines.

## Queen opens handicraft exhibition at Hai Nazal Centre

By Rania Atalla  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor on Saturday inaugurated an exhibition of handicrafts at the Hai Nazal Community Centre to honour the works of nearly 300 women who have been receiving practical training at the centre.

After touring the exhibition, the Queen visited the weaving, sewing, typing and beautician classrooms, and later met with University of Jordan students currently building an extension to the centre. The extension will include fitness and teleclass for women, and computer courses for children.

Returns from the sales of the two-week charity bazaar will be rechannelled to benefit women as well as support the centre which was established in 1979.

The centre is the backbone of a project initiated in 1978 by University of Jordan students under the supervision of Dr. Sari Nasir, a university sociologist professor. The idea of the project is to offer an opportunity for women to learn and develop skills that would help them generate income. It holds courses in embroidery, domestic sewing, knitting, typing, flower arrangement, doll-making as well as literacy classes during the scholastic year.

The centre also offers activities for children of the Hai Nazal area such as drawing, drama, competitions in reading and writing, with prizes for the most promising children.

But the idea behind the centre is not limited to these offerings. "It involves young men and women in the process of development," said Dr. Nasir.

The project was set up by students from the University of Jordan's Sociology Department as part of a requirement for a course entitled "Community Development and Organisation," taught by Dr. Nasir.

This approach of combining field work in sociology courses "is a step towards introducing a new dimension in education in the Arab World," Dr. Nasir said.

He added that "this will enable the students in the future to depend on themselves in creating opportunities for work as well as in participating in the development process as leaders in the field."

According to the centre's Director Feryal Saleh, "there are three main objectives for the centre. The first is to provide a suitable place for developing the talents of people in the community — mainly women and children."

The centre also helps the local community in facing certain social problems within the family and outside of it. It also gives a chance to students from the university to get involved in the community and help with certain problems that may arise."

A number of volunteer workers occasionally offer their services to the centre. "We get a large number of volunteers along with the students from the university who help us out in both the activities we hold as well as in the additional construction to the centre," Mrs. Saleh told the Jordan Times.

Mrs. Vera Halasa Haddad, a 1979 graduate of the university who took the same course said that it was "very encouraging to take part in solving the problems of people."

"We were an instrument to change people's attitude towards the project," Mrs. Halasa Haddad said. Visiting the project eight years later, she said the activities "are diversifying and people are more involved in the project now."

The centre has a clinic that serves a large number of people in the area. A nurse from the Ministry of Health works there two days a week, and a neighbouring doctor visits the clinic

twice a week on a voluntary basis. University students offer their services after their studying hours. "They usually come from 2:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon," Na'imeh Jibrin, one of the supervisors at the centre, said. "We are now in the process of building an extra building to accommodate more people at the centre. The students are helping us with it," she said.

Amal Othman and Salwa Lubani, two students majoring in sociology at the university have together with three other students collected over JD 500 for the project. Louai Ayoub, another student at the university who also helped in raising funds, said that "since the project is there to help those who are not too well-off financially, people should be more receptive towards the idea of giving assistance to the project, whether financial or otherwise."

The centre has gone a long way in its development. "We started from scratch and made a big leap forward," said Mrs. Saleh. "At first, people rejected the idea of the centre because it was alien to them. They did not know what the project was all about. Some children used to throw stones at the students from the university."

She went on to say that now "there is total acceptance of the centre. Only after they knew what the project was really about and after seeing our activities, people changed their attitudes. They saw it was for their own interest." She added that "now there are so many people coming that sometimes we cannot take everyone. The waiting list for courses is a long one."

Future plans for the project include computer courses for children and a course to teach women how to operate a tele machine.

"We would like to build another new centre to accommodate more people rather than just adding another building," said Dr. Nasir, adding that there are plans for setting up a similar project in Qawsmeih, "but the problems are financial; we are unable to raise as much funds as needed. But we are hopeful."



Her Majesty Queen Noor cuts the opening ceremony ribbon at the Hai Nazal Community Centre (Petra photo).

## Israeli-boycott group opens meeting

DAMASCUS (Petra) — The Arab Bureau for Boycotting Israel (ABBI) on Saturday opened a week-long meeting in Damascus to discuss imposing sanctions on foreign firms which violate the ABBI regulations and removing from a black list companies that abide by them.

Mr. Zuhair Aqil, ABBI's Commissioner General addressed the opening session and said the boycott regulations represent a means of self-defence against Israel's policies in the Arab region and the office will pursue efforts to tighten the economic siege against Israel.

Israel has recently concluded deals with a number of regional organisations to set up free zones for trade, an act which contra-

dicts with ABBI's regulations. Therefore, all projects developed from these deals will be subject to ABBI sanctions, Mr. Aqil said. The meeting in Damascus will also discuss the Israeli-European joint Chamber of Commerce on Arab economy, he said.

The joint chamber of commerce was established a year ago in Paris with the aim of launching bilateral economic cooperation and to pave the way for signing an agreement on a European-Israeli free trade zone, similar to that binding the United States with Israel.

Jordan is represented at the meeting by a delegation led by Mr. Mohammad Tawalbeh from the Department of Customs.

## Indians mark independence

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Indian Ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Gurcharan Singh, on Saturday hosted a reception at his residence on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of India's Independence Day.

The reception was attended by senior government officials, notable Jordanian personalities from the public as well as the private sector, members of the Jordanian-Indian Friendship Society, the Indian community living in Jordan, members of the diploma-

tic community in Jordan and journalists.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Singh presided over a formal ceremony to mark the occasion of independence day.

At the outset of the ceremony, the ambassador hoisted the Indian national flag and read a message from Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman. The ceremony was attended by members of the Indian community living in Jordan.

## More mines found off UAE after supply boat is blown to bits

(Continued from page 1)

Michel flew over the site of the Anita explosion and reported that the sea was covered with floating wreckage and oil.

He said coast guard boats surrounded the area as a tanker which had been at anchor near the Anita steamed out.

Shipping sources said tanker captains were getting "mine fever," mistaking floating junk as mines.

"Every hour we receive radio messages from passing vessels saying they may have seen a mine," one said.

Coast guards investigating a claim from one tanker found that the "mines" its captain reported were two empty tea chests.

Earlier on Saturday the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported a Saudi officer killed and another injured when a mine was detonated off the Saudi oil terminal of Khafji in the northern Gulf.

The Anita explosion occurred as Iran's navy conducted minesweeping operations — which Tehran previously described as exercises — in international waters in the Gulf of Oman, closely watched by American, British and French warships.

Tehran's national news agency

IRNA said the Iranian naval force, escorted by two warships, had detected no mines so far in operations which began on Friday.

"U.S., British and French warships are silently watching the operations, without sending radio messages," IRNA said.

It said minesweeping helicopters were participating in the exercises. Iran is known to have two U.S.-made 320-tonne coastal minesweepers.

It quoted the operational commander of the force as saying the minesweeping unit "would continue its mission in international waters to maintain the security of these waterways."

The United States has accused Iran of laying mines in the Gulf region but Tehran has accused the U.S. and its regional allies.

Iran says there is no need for other countries to send minesweepers to the region because it has the ability to clear mines. American, French and British minehunting units are on their way to the Gulf and the Soviet Union already has minesweepers in the region.

Meanwhile at the other end of the Gulf, three reflagged Kuwaiti tankers were getting ready for the

return dash down the waterway under the escort of American warships.

Shipping sources said that two of the tankers had completed loading while the third was expected to be finished Saturday.

They said the date of departure of the convoy would not be announced.

The sources said that minesweepers were at work between Kuwait and Bahrain, where mines on the voyage to Kuwait forced the convoy to halt until they were removed.

Reporting the Khafji incident, Saudi Arabia's Defence Ministry said that a navy frogman was killed and another injured when they misjudged the safe distance from a mine being detonated after it was pulled out of the Gulf.

The Saudi Press Agency, quoting an unnamed ministry official, said the incident occurred last Wednesday.

The discovery of the mine in offshore waters near Khafji was earlier said to have delayed for 24 hours the movement of the U.S. navy-escorted convoy of three Kuwaiti tankers now loading in Kuwait. Khafji is about 80 kilometres south of Kuwait's Al Ahmadi oil terminal, the tankers'

destination.

In Rome, Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti has ordered an investigation into a French report that the Italian government had approved deliveries of explosives which were used to make mines destined for Iran, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

In a late evening statement, the ministry said Mr. Andreotti asked for an immediate investigation to see if there was any truth to the assertion in the French weekly magazine *Evenement du Jeudi*.

The magazine reported on Thursday that a French state-owned company and a Swedish firm supplied explosives to an Italian company, Valsella Meccanica, building mines destined for Iran. It said the Italian company put in an order for the explosives after it received in 1981 what the magazine called "a fabulous contract with Iran for the delivery of a million mines."

It said deliveries of the explosives were made between 1981 and 1984 and had the approval of the Italian government.

The ministry's statement said Mr. Andreotti was seeking, with the help of other interested mini-

stries, "the deepest checking to see if there is any possible basis for such assertions" made by the magazine.

The chronology of previous mining incidents is: — May 16: Soviet tanker *Marshall Chuykov*, 67,980 tonnes, hits mine just outside Kuwait on its way to load Kuwaiti oil. Tanker leased by Kuwait and escorted by Soviet frigate.

— May 26: Liberian supertanker *Primrose*, 276,424 tonnes, chartered by state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, strikes mine in northern Gulf after loading crude in Kuwait.

— June 9: Greek supertanker *Ethnic*, 274,629 tonnes, loaded with Kuwaiti crude, holed by mine off Kuwait.

— June 19: Liberian supertanker *Stena Explorer*, 273,408 tonnes, hits mine soon after taking on cargo of crude in Kuwait.

— July 24: First reflagged Kuwaiti supertanker *Bridgeton*, 401,382 tonnes, punctured by mine 30 kilometres west of Iran's Farsi Island on its maiden voyage under the U.S. flag with escort of U.S. warships.

— Aug. 10: Panamanian-flagged supertanker *Texaco Caribbean*, 274,347 tonnes, carrying cargo of Iranian oil, holed by mine outside Gulf off United Arab Emirates port of Fujairah.

## Democrats fault dependence on foreign oil

(Continued from page 1)

freedom — or a choke hold on our country's throat because of our dependency on imported oil?"

Sen. Fowler said past administrations have supported a comprehensive national energy policy to reduce dependence on foreign oil while developing alternative energy technologies "powered by sources beyond the control of

sheiks and ayatollahs."

The Department of Energy says U.S. dependence on oil imports is greater than during the Arab oil embargo, and gas lines are predicted by the 1990s, he said.

Sen. Fowler criticised Mr. Reagan's stance on some energy-saving proposals.

"The president vetoed legislation to improve energy efficiency in home appliances, which would

have saved American consumers \$2.6 billion a year by 1995 and \$4 billion a year by the year 2000," he said. "That amounts to over \$300 a year per household."


"This administration rolled back the fuel economy standards for American automobiles, which now will increase fuel consumption by 400 million barrels a day and cost us over \$3 billion a year," he added.

## OBITUARY


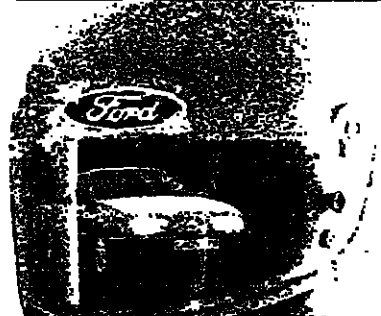

The Department of Antiquities and the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology in Jordan sadly announce the death of:

**Mrs. Crystal M. Bennett**  
Ex-Director of BIAAH

Mrs. Bennett was a prominent British archaeologist who spent much of her life excavating and promoting Jordanian archaeology in Jordan and abroad. She will be much missed by her many friends and fellow archaeologists.




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## Jordan Times

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### Israel's true colour

ISRAELI security men were merely showing the true colours of their state when they assaulted and manhandled a group of foreigners protesting in front of the American consulate in Arab Jerusalem on Thursday. Eyewitnesses' accounts corroborate the fact that the demonstration was peaceful and the protesters obeyed requests by the consulate to make way for traffic and not to impede the work of the mission and that it was Israeli policemen who unleashed a vengeful attack against them. The Israelis acted as if they were extracting vengeance. It is no surprise though, since victims of the brutal assault were volunteers working in summer camps in Palestinian universities in the occupied West Bank and they were staging Thursday's demonstrations in protest against the Israeli army's raid on the campus of Birzeit University and the arrest of students attending a night class.

One could easily estimate the depth of the feeling behind the protest since those who staged it knew very well that any attempt on their part to show the slightest sympathy and support for the Palestinian cause would only invite heavy-handed Israeli reprisals, including deportations.

Above all, Thursday's events emphasise the fact that Israel will not allow anyone, Arab or foreigner, to stand in the way of realising its objectives in the occupied territories.

Those who suffered at the hands of the Israeli police on Thursday were only having a taste of what it is like to find themselves as the target of Israeli wrath — a reality Arabs have to live with every day in the occupied territories.

However, the underlying question here is: would the Israelis have behaved in the manner they did on Thursday had it not been for the self-assurance of the reaction, or more accurately, the lack of reaction, from the governments of the foreigners involved? Washington recently told Israel to stop its discriminatory practices against Arab-Americans and black Americans, and we now wonder what is the reaction from the U.S. to the latest incident which involved at least half a dozen American citizens. The Israelis seem to be unperturbed by the prospect of any American or international reaction as there is little doubt that such reaction, if it comes at all, would fall short of even Israel's worst fears.

### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

#### Al Ra'i: Shamir and his lies

ISRAEL's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told visiting U.S. Congressmen Friday that he was expecting direct peace talks with Jordan. Shamir himself could not believe his own lies and fabrications and still he did not feel embarrassed in making the statement before the U.S. Congressmen for the sake of presenting his government as one seeking peace. Jordan has time and again reiterated its position clearly that it is for a genuine and comprehensive peace embodying the whole region and based on Arab peace plans and United Nations Security Council resolutions. These plans and resolutions do not condone the acquisition of Arab land and Israeli occupation of Arab territory but call for the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people. Jordan believes that peace can be achieved under the U.N. umbrella and through the participation of all concerned parties including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Jordan has time and again reiterated that it can and will not act on behalf of the PLO or serve as a substitute for the Palestinian people in peace talks. This clearly means that Jordan will not enter into separate peace talks with Israel and cannot accept a partial solution for the Middle East problem that can not lead to permanent peace. Shamir's claims and fabrications about direct talks with Jordan are not a novelty, and these lies are bound to meet the same fate as those of the past, and will never force Jordan to budge from its national stand and its pan-Arab commitments.

#### Al Dustour: Israel will get Lavi in the end

ISRAEL's official stand with regard to the production of the Lavi war plane and the American opposition to Israel's plans should call for contemplation over U.S.-Israeli relations. The Israeli finance and defence ministers, reached a final decision under U.S. pressure to call off plans for the plane's production only to be surprised to hear the Israeli prime minister and foreign minister giving their wholehearted support for the project. The projected plane of which 50 per cent is to be manufactured in the United States will cost Israel a fortune and will serve as a heavy burden on the Israeli economy. This is correct in the estimates of the finance and defence ministries but the idea of scrapping the project does not serve the political objectives of the prime minister and his foreign minister who are after the votes of the Israeli electorate. These two seek to ensure sufficient votes for themselves by any means even if that means sacrificing the interests of other Israeli leaders and in contradiction of all reason and logic. This situation will place the Americans face to face with a real challenge, especially for the U.S. secretaries of state and defence who had threatened to stop American military aid to Israel if it went on with its project. We are certain that U.S. officials will be forced to withdraw their threats and that the Israelis will get what they want of American assistance and perhaps they will go ahead with their Lavi plans unperturbed. This will happen simply because of the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance that binds the two parties strongly together.

#### Sawt Al Shaab: Solution is with Lebanese themselves

THE Lebanese people these days live through a formidable spectre of hunger and famine, now that the Lebanese pound has lost its value and the economic crisis has reached uncontrolled proportions. The Lebanese people who lived for many years through a civil strife continue to face this crisis with apprehension and deep concern and hear their leaders now and then warn of the grave consequences of this situation. It should be emphasised that it was the war and the lack of confidence among the Lebanese people and their leaders that led to the present situation and it should be said that the only means that can help the Lebanese to rebuild their economy lies through their reconciliation and their making peace among themselves. Peace among the different factions and parties can pave the way for the reconstruction of the country's various institutions and help stop the economic situation from further deterioration. Most of the Lebanese people are poor now as a result of the whirlpool of violence and the long years of internal conflict. Perhaps getting together for rebuilding the economy can serve as a means for unifying the factions and the parties of Lebanon and direct their efforts towards safeguarding the unity and territorial integrity of their nation.

### Sunday's Economic Pulse

## Why government is growing bigger and bigger?

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

RELATIVE to the size of Jordan, its population and economy, the Jordanian government might be one of the biggest governments on earth, save for the socialist countries. Its expenditure is around 62 per cent of the gross domestic product. It accounts for 40 per cent of the labour force. If we include off-budget public institutions of the public sector, these two figures will shoot up even higher.

The growth of government in Jordan during the last four decades is anything but unique. The rapid growth of governments and the augmentation of their roles in public life are common phenomena covering all countries in the world since World War II, but on varying degrees.

The size of government and the evolution of its role in a given country can be measured by the public expenditure taken as a ratio of the national income or gross national product. This ratio reached 34 per cent in the United States, including federal, state and local governments. In Western Europe it ranged between 31 per cent in Spain, at the lowest point of the spectrum and 51 per cent in Denmark at the highest point. The overall European average is 42 per cent. This indicates that the relative size of the Jordanian government is much bigger than the normal size of modern governments even after their phenomenal growth following the war and the establishment of welfare states.

The underlying reasons for the growth of governments in general are:

1. People look to the government as an instrument to redistribute income more equitably among the population. Its growth therefore is thought of as an advancement to the cause of justice.
2. The government is seen as a provider of essential services to the public without the side-effects of the private sector investments.
3. Special interest groups whose interests are best served by a biased government have every reason to support bigger role for the government. They can extract more benefits if the government spent more money as long as the cost is spread equally over all the taxpayers.
4. The bureaucracy is also very much interested in a bigger government and in enhancing its role in public life. The more branches and departments the government has, the more opportunities and ranks they will have and, the greater the role of the government the more power they will exercise.
5. It is a financial illusion that the government was always able to increase its expenditure without directly increasing visible taxes on the citizens. The extra expenses may be funded through deficit, borrowing and inflationary expansion of printed money. This illusion is responsible for the tendency of all governments to borrow internally and externally. Of course, the citizens will eventually have to pay the bill. All government outlays will in the last analysis be born by its citizens either in the form of higher taxes in the future to repay the loans plus interest or in the form of inflation which

reduces the real value of their current income and previous savings. Governments do not create money from thin air, the people will have to pay the cost of all the government services either today or tomorrow, whether they realise the fact or not.

Beside the above five factors, which were cited by a recent International Monetary Fund paper, one has to add a sixth factor affecting the size of the Jordanian government in particular. It is that the government grew under the umbrella of British financial support, followed by American aid and finally Arab aid. This enabled the government to grow in size and to shoulder more responsibilities than it can handle on its own resources.

Except for foreign aid, which is not guaranteed to continue indefinitely, the other five factors will continue to work overtime, and impact the size of government. There is no limit where these factors become satisfied and cease to influence the government. Moreover, anyone who tries to block the overgrowth of government will inevitably find himself politically in a difficult position. He may be accused of standing against the public interest or, worse, against social justice. He may be shunned by the strong bureaucracy and described as an enemy of the people. This is why it is always easy to pass laws and inflated budgets which raised the size of the government year after year and will continue to do so until the situation reaches a point of crisis.

## Unanswered questions remain following Reagan's speech

By William M. Welch

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Ronald Reagan is seeking to move beyond the Iran-contra affair without addressing the unanswered questions, declaring that "there's nothing I can say that will make the situation right."

Reagan's televised address to the nation Wednesday night was his third major speech aimed at dislodging his administration from the Iran-contra mire.

His look to the future and acceptance of ultimate accountability was delivered without mention of his own past conflicting statements or the potential illegality of his aides' acts. It provided no new answers.

Reagan, for instance, didn't address what may be the biggest questions remaining for him:

How can a president propelled into office by frustration over hostages in Iran seven years ago fail to remember approving the sale of weapons to that country?

And if he did forget, what else has he forgotten? What else was kept from him?

Reagan has maintained he cannot recall signing the December 1985 documents authorising the sale of U.S. arms to Iran — a document that flies in the face of

his long-stated insistence that there was no swap for hostages.

Both former National Security Adviser John Poindexter and fired aide Oliver North testified that Reagan did sign it, and Poindexter said he destroyed the paper to save Reagan from political embarrassment.

Reagan did not say whether he would offer pardons to North or Poindexter, should they face charges. Nor did he even mention the possibility that current or former administration officials could face prosecution.

None has been indicted, but independent counsel Lawrence Walsh is conducting a broad criminal probe.

Polls consistently show most Americans don't believe Reagan on the Iran-contra affair.

Although he has rebounded a bit in the latest surveys, the affair has left his credibility tattered.

Reagan said he had become preoccupied with the American hostages held in Lebanon, and the arms sale to Iran and diplomatic goals became tangled.

"This was a mistake," he said. "I have thought long and often about how to explain to you what I intended to accomplish, but I respect you too much to make

excuses. The fact of the matter is that there's nothing I can say that will make the situation right."

Reagan said he wanted it put "in capital letters" that he didn't know of the diversion of Iranian arms-sale profits to the Nicaraguan contra rebels.

Yet he stopped short of saying what he would have done if he had known.

Poindexter, testifying before Congress, said he didn't tell Reagan of the diversion so that president could deny it later. But he also insisted that Reagan would have approved of the diversion, had he known.

In his address, Reagan suggested that he'd been shielded by aides from what was happening within his own presidency. As a defence, it's hardly one that answers critics who say he's been confused or detached.

"I am the one who is ultimately accountable to the American people," Reagan said. "No president should ever be protected from the truth... I had the right, the obligation, to make my own decision."

Reagan didn't deal with the conflicting statements he has made over the past nine months.

When the story about the Iran arms deal first emerged, Reagan dismissed it as having "no foundation." As evidence accumu-



lated, he was forced to acknowledge it was true.

Subsequently, the president changed his story several times, rejecting and later accepting the notion that he traded arms for American hostages held in Lebanon.

He largely has been silent on

the subject since a March 4 address responding to an investigation of the affair by a three-member panel he appointed. That board's report concluded that Reagan "did not seem to be aware of... the full consequences" of his orders.

Reagan also didn't address the

role of the late CIA director William Casey, a close friend and former campaign manager. Casey, who carried his story untold to the grave last May, has been depicted by North as the architect and overseer of the Iran-contra diversion and planner of a larger off-the-books covert network.

## Soviet Union seen pursuing skilful diplomacy in Gulf

By Mary Ellen Bortin

Reuter

MOSCOW — With Western attention riveted on growing tensions in the Gulf region, the Soviet Union has been quietly courting Iran in moves aimed at improving its standing in the region. Arab and Western diplomats in Moscow say.

The diplomats say Moscow's skilful diplomacy in recent weeks has given the Soviet Union enhanced credibility among Gulf Arab states as a potential future mediator between Iran and Iraq in their seven-year-old conflict.

Such a role would boost Soviet prestige in the strategic region, where it has already seized the diplomatic advantage from the United States, according to the sources.

"The Soviet Union is trying to position itself to play a constructive role if and when a real opportunity arises to solve the conflict between Iran and Iraq," an Arab diplomatic source told Reuters.

He cited an agreement announced last week by Moscow and Tehran to cooperate on large-scale economic projects and to deepen bilateral relations, adding: "The Soviets have already positioned themselves as the sole mediator at this point."

The economic cooperation accord was forged despite Moscow's role as Iraq's major arms supplier and its protection of Kuwaiti oil against Iranian attack, and despite Iranian aid to rebels fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government.

Although no contracts have yet been signed, the accord could assume strategic significance if it brought increased Soviet access to the Gulf via proposed rail links with Iran.

Western diplomats said it was too early to judge the importance of the accord, announced after Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov visited Tehran and Baghdad.

"Vorontsov's trip was a way of showing the United States that Moscow had better relations with both sides," one Western envoy commented.

Diplomats say Gulf states view Moscow's moves toward improving relations with Iran while

continuing to support Iraq as a positive development which could create new avenues for dialogue with Tehran's Islamic government.

"If the Soviets are smart enough to maintain relations with both countries, they would have leverage in stopping the war," an Arab diplomatic source said. "They would gain big credibility with other Gulf countries if they succeeded."

He said that despite reservations among the Gulf's oil-producing states about increased Soviet influence in the region, they would welcome a role for Moscow as peacemaker if this restored stability.

But both Western and Arab envoys cautioned that Iran could be seeking to manipulate the Soviet Union and the long-term effects of the current contacts remained to be seen.

Moscow's effort to improve ties with Tehran after a sour spell in the early 1980s has gathered pace amid moves by Washington to restore its credibility in the region following the scandal over secret arms sales to Iran.

When Washington began its naval build-up in the Gulf, sending warships to protect reflagged Kuwaiti oil tankers, Moscow quickly called for the removal of all foreign warships from the region. Iran readily endorsed the proposal.

The Soviet Union, meanwhile, has continued carrying Kuwaiti oil through the strategic waterway.

Although one of three Soviet tankers chartered by Kuwait was damaged by a mine last May, before Kuwaiti ships were put under the U.S. flag, the operation has since continued calmly as Iran has stepped up threats against the United States.

Moscow, which has had three minesweepers in the region for some time to protect Soviet shipping, did not immediately react to Tuesday's announcement of despatch of British and French minesweepers to the Gulf.

But it strongly attacked the strong U.S. naval presence, accusing Washington of seeking

hegemony in the region — a position fully in tune with that of Tehran, which has eased hostile rhetoric against its northern neighbour recently.

Diplomats believe improved Soviet-Iranian ties may also have contributed to Tehran's restraint in reacting to a United Nations resolution demanding a ceasefire in the Gulf war.

Iran, which has refused to negotiate a settlement with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Tuesday has said it was not rejecting the ceasefire call, although it also did not accept it outright. Moscow has strongly backed the truce demand.

The Soviet Union, which shares a 1,740-kilometre border with Iran, began seeking better ties 18 months ago, sending the highest-level delegation to Tehran since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Relations had cooled when Iran suspended natural gas deliveries to the Soviet Union in a price dispute after the Shah's overthrow and the chill deepened seriously in 1983 when Tehran suppressed the Soviet-backed Tudeh (Communist) Party.

A series of diplomatic expulsions followed and in 1985, as hundreds of Soviet technicians quit Iran due to Iraqi bombings of economic targets, Tehran listed the Soviet presence in Afghanistan, its arms sales to Iraq and abandoned bilateral projects as major obstacles to better relations.

With the prospect of a resumption of work on joint economic projects and warmer Soviet-Iranian political relations now in sight, diplomats expect Moscow to seek to use the situation to strengthen ties with other states in the region.

Well-informed Arab sources said Oman, which established diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union in 1985, planned to send its first resident ambassador to Moscow late this year.

Moves are also under way to open a United Arab Emirates embassy in Moscow following the arrival of a Soviet ambassador in Abu Dhabi last autumn.

## Zahir Shah option seems to gain ground among Afghan exiles

By Oliver Wates

Reuter

WANA, Pakistan — The belief that former King Zahir Shah is the best hope for peace in Afghanistan seems to be gaining ground among exiles in Pakistan.

Guerrillas and refugees alike are showing signs of impatience with the failure of the seven established rebel parties to bring the nine-year-old conflict any nearer an end.

A recent disputed survey in refugee camps in Pakistan showed 72 per cent favoured the former king as national leader.

Prominent exiles and Western Afghan-watchers say there is little enthusiasm for restoration of an all-powerful, hereditary monarchy. The Kabul government's "national reconciliation" drive has also failed to win over opponents.

The three million Afghans in Pakistan are fed up with life in refugee camps and see Zahir Shah, ousted after 40 years' reign in 1973, as the best hope for a peace settlement which would enable them to return home.

"Zahir Shah is a good man, everybody here likes the king," said schoolteacher Sultan Mahmood at a refugee camp near Wana, high up in the mountains near the Afghan border.

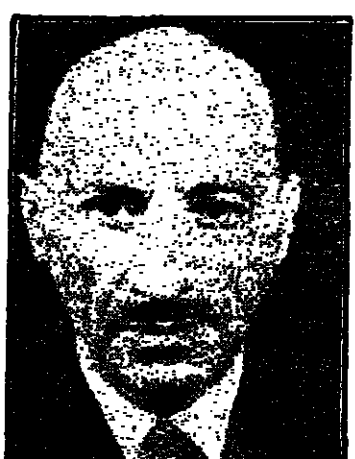
One senior aid worker at Wana said the king was supported less for himself than as a symbol of the days before the upheavals of the April 1978 communist takeover and the Soviet intervention the following year.

"Any solution which would suggest to the refugees a return to the situation before the Saur (April) revolution, a return to normal, would be acceptable," he said.

"The people who are shouting for Zahir Shah, it is not out of love for Zahir Shah, it is a symbol of nationalism," former Afghan diplomat Habibullah Karzai told Reuters in the western Pakistani city of Quetta.

"It means a genuine reconciliation, a return to their farms, an end to the humiliation of the Afghan people. We are not followers of the king, but we want our country back."

Supporters of the "Zahir Shah option" have put him forward over the past few months as the only possible compromise leader



Ex-king Zahir Shah

in a peace settlement, who could bridge the bitter division between Afghans.

The mild-mannered former monarch has said he would be prepared to return. The Kremlin has been promoting contacts with his supporters and the Kabul government has said it would be prepared to allow him back.

However, opposition is still strong among some of the seven rebel parties based in Peshawar, north-western Pakistan.

Radicals such as Gulbuddin Hekmatyar accuse him of letting the communists pave the way for the coup during his reign. The largely non-Pashtun Jamiat-I-Islami party also has doubts about bringing back a Pashtun ruler.

Hekmatyar insists that only a leader from the rebels could take over after a Soviet withdrawal, and in a speech last week challenged the controversial opinion poll as a fraud.

The survey was carried out from January to July by the Afghan Information Centre, a Peshawar organisation run by exiles, which publishes reports on the conflict.

The centre says it interviewed 2,000 refugees and fighters from 23 of the 28 Afghan provinces, all the main ethnic groups, and affiliated to all seven parties.

Every one rejected "national reconciliation" and said they wanted to return only when Soviet troops were withdrawn.

Asked who should be the national leader, 72 per cent said Zahir Shah and 10 per cent any Afghan Muslim. Another 13 per cent wanted a "pure Islamic

state," but less than half a per cent named one of the party leaders.

"It seems a mere fabrication, they are not neutral," a spokesman for Hekmatyar's Hezb-I-Islami party said. "A neutral should carry out such a survey. The majority of the people of Afghanistan know that Zahir Shah's time is over."

Disenchantment with the Peshawar leaders was also evident at a recent pro-king meeting of 400 rebels and commanders in Quetta, attended by men affiliated to all seven parties.

The meeting was called to denounce radical leader Abdurrah Rasul Sayyaf, who had insulted Zahir Shah the previous day by calling him "kafir," or non-Muslim. The meeting turned into a general attack on all parties.

"Our leaders are just fighting for positions, they don't care about Afghanistan," Haji Maghash, a gap-toothed commander from Kandahar said. "If they don't like Zahir Shah, why don't they just get together and choose a new leader instead?"

Haji Mohammad Shah, a commander from the western province of Farah, called on the Pakistani government to kick out the leaders and on countries supporting the rebels to donate arms directly to the military commanders.

At present the arms provided by Western and conservative Arab states are distributed through the Peshawar parties, which greatly increases their influence. Western diplomats say.

Further evidence of rebel impatience with their party leaders came last month, when commanders inside Afghanistan held a 12-day conference in the central province of Ghor.

A report from Ismael Khan, one of the best-known military leaders with great influence in the east and northwest, said it was attended by 1,200 commanders from all over the country.

The conference decided to set up a "supreme jihad council" to coordinate not only the "holy war" against the Soviet and government troops, but also the political leadership.

The council would be elected at a second gathering to be held inside Afghanistan within the next six months.



# Soviet historian deflates myths over Brezhnev and Chernenko

By Tony Barber  
Reuters

MOSCOW — A professional historian has deflated a long-standing official myth by saying Soviet writers for years exaggerated the wartime exploits of former presidents Leonid Brezhnev and Konstantin Chernenko.

Stating facts that as little as three years ago could have landed him in serious trouble, Yuri Polyakov said the two late leaders were not the World War II heroes the Soviet public had been told to revere.

Polyakov's remarks, made in an interview with the literary journal *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, added a new theme to the officially encouraged campaign to let Soviet people know the full truth about their history.

Brezhnev, who governed the country from 1964 to 1982, has already come under attack from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his supporters for letting the country stagnate from the late 1970s onwards.

Chernenko, who ruled from February 1984 to March 1985, has been implicated in these denunciations since he was Brezhnev's right-hand man. But until Polyakov's interview, no-one had seriously challenged the wartime roles of the two leaders.

Polyakov devoted his com-

ments to the battle of Malaya Zemlya, a once little-known engagement near the Black Sea coast where Soviet forces prevented Nazi landings in 1943.

The battle was given little attention in Soviet war histories until the late 1960s when Brezhnev established his primacy over other leaders who emerged with him after the ousting of Nikita Khrushchev in 1964.

Scores of Soviet writers began to describe the battle as a turning point in World War II comparable with the battle of Stalingrad and the defence of Leningrad.

Brezhnev's own account of the battle, in which he was officially said to have come close to death, was given the top Soviet literary prize. A song written about it was once the most frequently-played tune with a war theme on Moscow Radio.

Polyakov observed: "Monographs and scientific and popular articles were written about the decisive significance of Brezhnev's action at Malaya Zemlya. It was touched up to the utmost extent in booklets and solid, multi-volume works."

Brezhnev was a political commissar in World War II, one of thousands of party personnel who were attached to armed forces but were not soldiers.

As for Chernenko, who did not fight in World War II but served

as a frontier guard near the Chinese border, Polyakov said: "Viewpoints that were clearly exaggerated began to appear about Chernenko's role in the great patriotic war."

He appeared to have in mind a film documentary screened in 1984 called "Outpost of Youth" which showed a man who had served at Chernenko's frontier post in eastern Kazakhstan.

The man told in heroic language how Chernenko's unit had tracked down a foreign gang of cattle-rustlers. One trooper was killed and another wounded, but the cattle were saved.

The armed forces newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda* meanwhile disclosed that Chernenko had been a good rifle marksman and "always hit the targets throwing hand grenades."

Many Muscovites tell foreigners now that they never placed much faith in the official accounts of the military prowess of Brezhnev and Chernenko.

"The prestige of historical science, especially as regards its main directions, declined," Polyakov commented. "The public lost confidence in the word of an historian... time-serving (praising one's superiors to gain favour) made researchers over-emphasise to infinity certain historical events and exaggerate the role of some leaders."

Polyakov sidesteps the point that it was not only official historians but Brezhnev's Kremlin colleagues who lavished extravagant praise on the late leader.

Most notable among these was Geidar Aliyev, a former KGB security police chief in Azerbaijan who is still a member of the ruling politburo. He once called Brezhnev "the most influential and authoritative politician in our planet."

Even Gorbachev, when Communist Party leader in his home area of Stavropol, said of a Brezhnev literary work in the 1970s: "In the depths of its ideological content, in the breadth of the author's generalisations and opinions, it has become a great event in public life."

Such remarks were virtually obligatory at the time for thrusting young leaders looking to advance their careers, but Polyakov made clear the myths about Brezhnev were finally to be consigned to oblivion.

His interview recalled a joke that circulated in Moscow in the early 1980s, according to which the names of the four Soviet leaders were Vladimir (Lenin), the wise, Josef (Stalin) the Terrible, Nikita (Khrushchev) the Miracle-Worker, and Leonid (Brezhnev) the Writer of Fables.

## Thousands ask for concealed weapons applications in Florida

By Diana Smith  
The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Florida — The number of people licensed to carry concealed weapons in Florida is expected to rise dramatically next year under a new state law.

"That's a frightening thought," said state Representative Mike Abrams, who fought the legislation.

"The streets may be a little safer," said state Rep. Ron Johnson, the driving force behind passage of the bill that goes into effect Oct. 1.

State officials predict 120,000 people will apply for the state licenses to carry guns concealed on their bodies or in their purses, coat pockets or boots. And they expect most of the applicants will qualify.

No more than 10,000 to 15,000 people statewide currently are licensed by local governments to carry concealed guns.

The legislature last spring passed both the concealed weapons bill and a companion measure

that wiped out all the local gun-control ordinances in favour of uniform, statewide laws.

The local ordinances in most urban counties limited carry permits to people with a work-related need for a weapon.

But under the new law, a person with no criminal record need only pass a gun safety course, pay a \$125 fee and express a need to carry a handgun, such as a concern for personal safety. They also will be fingerprinted.

Critics complained the new law would make getting a license to carry a concealed weapon easier than getting a driver's license. State Attorney General Bob Butterworth called it "the gun dealer relief act."

Abrams and others fear the law sends a bad message about lawlessness and retribution, particularly in light of a recent shooting spree that left three people dead in a Fort St. Joe courthouse and random shootings on California freeways.

But Johnson said he finds the thought of armed citizens comforting. Thugs might think twice



before menacing law-abiding people if they think they might be facing a gun, he said.

"It's our belief we might possibly see a decrease in the crime rate... because criminals don't want to be shot," said Marion Hammer, a lobbyist for United Sportsmen of Florida, backed by the National Rifle Association.

Johnson was a close friend of Circuit Judge W.L. Bailey and Attorney Tom Ingles, who were gunned down following an all-morning hearing July 28 by an angry ex-husband. Also killed was the former sister-in-law of the gunman, who has been charged with three counts of first-degree murder.

Johnson said no law could have

prevented those shootings.

"There are two types of people on the street: law-abiding citizens and criminals. I don't know what kind of law you can pass to keep the criminals from doing what they do," Johnson said.

State officials say the fingerprinting and training requirements should discourage criminals and mentally unstable people from applying.

Urban communities are more concerned about gun control because crowding, traffic jams and other irritations of city living can cause tempers to flare quickly. "Guns have a tendency to make a disagreement a tragedy," said state Rep. Mike Friedman.

## Revamped comic heroes are weaker and bitter

By Christopher Hanson  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — How comic books have changed.

Superman, the all-powerful hero in red cape and blue leotards, was once self-confident and taciturn. Today he is gentle, vulnerable and not as strong.

He is still faster than a speeding bullet, but he gets tired, suffers pain, worries and talks about his feelings.

Batman — once an upstanding, straight-laced and slightly clownish crime fighter — is now a bitter, cruel vigilante.

He shoots first and asks questions later.

Supergirl is dead.

Wonderwoman, the Flash, Green Lantern and other heroes created by New York-based D.C. Comics, whose characters are widely known around the world, have received major face lifts.

Jenette Kahn, president of D.C. (which stands for Detective Comics), explained the changes recently at the opening of an exhibition celebrating 50 years of Superman at Washington's National Museum of American History.

"Superman is our flagship character, but after 50 years and over 12,000 Superman stories, we thought there was a coat of rust on the man of steel," Kahn told reporters.

As Superman was revamped, so were Batman and others, she said. "Our readers have changed and comics change with them."

The most striking transformation is that of Batman, the "caped crusader" who has fought crime in "Gotham City" with partner Robin, the boy wonder, since his 1939 comic debut.

The Dynamic duo, as the team is known, had been depicted as noble and scrupulously law-abiding allies of the police. A Batman television series in the 1960s, still syndicated around the world, was wildly over-acted, adding a "camp" comic tone.

But the new Batman, who appears in a comic called "The Dark Knight," is something else



Comic books, once aimed at children, have changed their image over the years. Batman, once an outstanding, straight-faced and slightly clownish figure, is now a bitter, sadistic vigilante who shoots first and asks questions later.

entirely — an angry, vengeful man in the spirit of the "Death Wish" films in which Charles Bronson played a brutal vigilante killing street punks.

On one recent scene, Batman pounds a criminal's face to jelly, saying, "It's an operating table, and I'm the surgeon."

In another, he dangles a thug from the roof of a skyscraper, declaring, "The scream alone is worth it."

In the new series, Batman, in his late 50s, comes out of retirement to attack crime and corruption in a world racked by limited nuclear war, nuclear winter with a perpetually dark sky, and a race of mutant criminals who must be stopped.

Batman's new "Robin" is a 13-year-old girl who escapes the boredom of life with her hippie parents.

Batman is ridden with guilt for all the victims done in by his long-standing criminal enemy, the Joker, who had slipped through his fingers so often in the past.

This time Batman kills him.

ated.

In the current issue, for instance, he complains he is exhausted from the previous month's adventure. He is nearly burned up by a flame-throwing monster and confesses, "I don't think my invulnerability is up to stopping it."

Other D.C. characters with super powers — Supergirl and a menagerie including Superdog, Supermonkey, and Superhorse — have been "bumped off" to simplify things, Kahn said.

Supergirl's death in a recent comic drew hate mail, she said, but Superman is now the only hero with super speed, super breath (for blowing back tidal waves) and X-ray vision.

The old Superman was self-confident, even arrogant.

The new one worries about being fired in his secret identity as newspaper reporter Clark Kent because he is too busy being Superman. He worries about losing his girl friend for the same reason and in the July issue must cancel a date with her in order to save a small village in Brazil.

"Maybe being two people is too much," he frets.

Kahn put it, "this new '80s Superman is more vulnerable, more human, in touch with his feelings, a member of the 'me generation' with a sense of his interior life."

Other characters are also changing. Wonder woman, a dazzling go-goer in a hip-hugging red, white, and blue costume, has been made more powerful and god-like.

Face lifts of other super heroes are yet to be unveiled.

Kahn said the changes are aimed at pleasing older readers. "There are still kids who go to newsstands clutching their allowances to buy comics," she said.

"But most of our readers are teenagers or the college-educated, upwardly mobile. They're demanding more sophisticated stories."

"It seems people who started reading comics (as kids) just didn't want to give up the habit."



Bob Jobbins

## New head for BBC Arabic service

BOB Jobbins, Cairo correspondent and chief of BBC Bureau, Cairo, has been appointed head of the BBC Arabic service. He joins the service as head of service designate in the near future, and will take over full responsibilities from James Norris, who is retiring, early in 1988.

Jobbins, 45, comes from a small town just north of London. After leaving school, he worked on a local paper as a reporter and feature writer. In 1964 he joined the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation as a sub-editor, and the next seven years were spent in increasingly senior editorial positions in the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation, Agence France Presse, and the Tehran Journal.

Jobbins joined BBC external services news in 1972 as chief sub-editor, and three years later became assistant diplomatic correspondent. From 1977-1986 he occupied positions as BBC correspondent and chief of bureau in Cairo, and Singapore.

Jobbins is married with two sons. He speaks French, Arabic and some Spanish.

The BBC Arabic service is the largest of the BBC's foreign language services, broadcasting to the Middle East and North Africa for 63 hours a week — BBC press release.

## Mini makes sensational come-back on couture

By Suzy Patterson  
The Associated Press

PARIS — The mini is with us again. It's both updated and younger than ever, as shown by the haute couture houses last week.

Couturiers used every possible cut and luxury fabric in their expensive clothes. But they all agreed that legs must be bared, from the knee to high enough on the thigh to please even a street-walker.

This was not just a retrospective of the sixties, as each house differed in new approaches. Christian Lacroix, the newest star in the fashion galaxy, based his puffy short skirts and shawl-wrapped shoulders on folklore drawn from his hometown of Arles in southern France.

Yves Saint Laurent's women were sophisticated and glamorous. While some fashion critics grow that Lacroix has unseated Saint Laurent as the "king of Paris fashion," others feel it's still too early to make such a drastic judgment.

"Lacroix must now prove himself in a sustained effort as a couturier," said Ursel Jalou, editor of *l'Officiel*, a well-known glossy fashion magazine.

There were 21 others this week making their own statements about new fashions. Intricately fashioned from fabulous fabrics, these clothes are not for the mass market. But they serve as clues for what's coming up in both luxury and less expensive ready-to-wear.

There were big moments at Ungaro and Chanel, both opting for today's glamour based on history.

Ungaro's post-victorians sashayed out in the most elaborate costumes possible, with gold leg o'mutton sleeves, immensely full skirts, coruscopia or cartridge drapes. They flounced around in provocative, rich coats and dresses based on the renaissance.

Lagerfeld's evening clothes for Chanel often featured stiffened, embroidered panniers from the 18th century, some served up with very short skirts.

Scherrer showed updated Viennese waltzers or skaters. Feraud dressed women up in Indian fringe or prints brightly patterned on American themes.

Couture shapes for the mini went from oval to straight to tulip-draped skirts, often with fur edging, fringes and flounces for

feminine effect. Balmain won the "golden thimble" prize for a couture approach to bermuda-length shorts with dressy, belted tunic tops, or taffeta wraps for evening.

Puffball looks and huge drapes or bustle-bows came out for evening. Many of the flared skirts had stiffened crinolines underneath.

Even fur coats were shorter length, and both Givenchy and Saint Laurent opted for beautifully-coloured wool or leather short, squared coats with fox borders.

Waist-cinched redingotes with capped shoulders or hourglass princess styles were offset by the more saucy look of swirly, trapeze-line babydolls.

Shoulders are still in, tailored with moderate padding for daytime as usual at Givenchy, Saint Laurent, Dior, Scherrer and elsewhere. Ungaro's were exaggerated, huge and puffed.

Lacroix went the other way. His Arlesienne girl was strictly folklore, the shoulder draped to a sloped effect. Chanel shoulders were in moderate proportions for the very short skirts.

There was more attention than ever to sassy little cocktail or evening outfits. Lesser-known houses like Lecoanet-Hemant and Mademoiselle Carven brought out gorgeously-cut cocktail clothes.

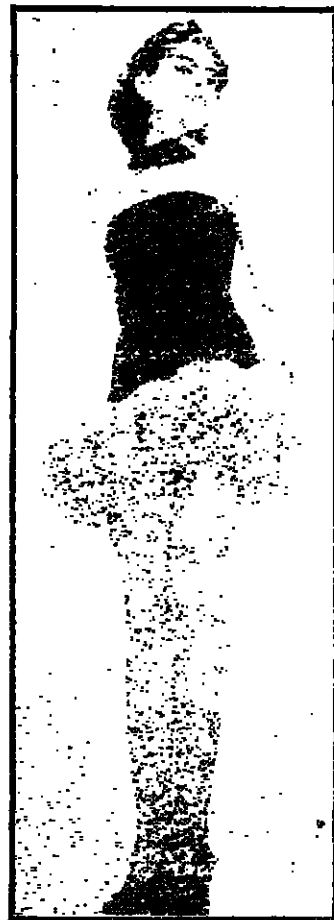
Some were swirling tulle dance dresses. Others were brocade suits or sexy, heart-shaped strapless sheaths, sometimes topped with fitted peplum jackets or with embroidered boleros or perhaps a cloud of ostrich feathers. Chanel's fetching new decollete is a lyre shape.

Black velvet and lace were two winners. But there were also big splashes of colour in hot pink, tangerine, electric blue, emerald and amethyst — in panne velvets, lame, gazar silks, duchesse satin, faille.

There were long, beaded and grand evening gowns, but many were minis in front — dipped or trailing trains in back. Is this practical fashion? No, but it's not meant to be. This is haute couture — a show both for the designer and the lucky women who will own these gowns.

When worn with high-heeled pumps and sheer dark stockings to show off legs, the short-skirts looked more like dream clothes than all-weather winter gear, the domain of ready-to-wear.

A few designers showed flat-heeled boots — best at Chanel in plaid to match the outfit.



## Ishtar offends Arabs and others

By Jocelyne Zablitt

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee has called for a nationwide boycott of the movie "Ishtar" and launched a letter-writing campaign against it, complaining about derogatory stereotypes of Arabs and what the committee considers an offensive reference to Mecca in a song in the movie. Lebanese-born reporter Jocelyne Zablitt watched "Ishtar" from her Arab-American vantage point.

YES, there are camels. Yes, there are veils and headresses. Yes, there is an evil emir. And, yes there are acres and acres of sand.

But the stereotyped scenes and characters in the controversial movie "Ishtar" aren't confined to Arabs or the Middle East.

There are plenty of stereotypes to go around: Bungling CIA and KGB agents; a spoiled Jewish

New Yorker; a naive Southerner who is just a shade more sophisticated than Gomer Pyle.

The only nerves "Ishtar" has touched so far are those of Arab-Americans, who have seen a steady parade of movies and TV shows depicting their people in unfavourable light. The common threads for Middle Eastern people portrayed in such movies as "Protocol," "Harem" and "Delta Force" are corrupt sheikhs, terrorist fanatics, and generally uncivilised Arabs.

"Ishtar," the movie starring Dustin Hoffman and Warren Beatty, came under fire in May by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee for what was seen as yet another degrading portrayal of Arabs.

As a native of Lebanon, I viewed "Ishtar" to see what all the fuss was about. What I found most offensive — and I suspect most viewers, no matter what their heritage, will agree — were

dumb jokes and a weak plot.

Yes, Arabs take the usual beating: There are the expected references to "fanatical and devout" Shi'ites. The emir is someone you wouldn't trust as far as you could throw. And none of the Arabic characters in the movie are portrayed as educated or polished.

But none of the Western characters are portrayed any better.

When a CIA agent in a scene talks with Hoffman about Muammar Qaddafi, the Libyan leader, Hoffman professes complete ignorance of the man: He asks the agent if Qaddafi is a place near Ishtar, a fictional country near Morocco. Har-har.

The references to Qaddafi and other political figures or world events, an apparent attempt to lend some authenticity to the movie, add nothing but injury to an already insulting script.

What the makers of the movie don't seem to realise is that as

much as terrorists, camels, veils, tents and sinister sheikhs may sell tickets, they do not present a realistic image of the Middle East. Of course, Hollywood may not want to do that.

Believe it or not, most Arab people don't eat with their hands, as Hoffman and the CIA agent are shown doing in a restaurant in one scene, ostensibly to reflect local custom.

Most women do not cover themselves with a veil and are not required to do so. And — surprise, surprise — every Arab doesn't have a camel grazing in his backyard. In fact, in many Arab countries the camels are there only to please Western tourists.

"Ishtar," too, is designed to please the West.

But I seriously doubt that it will, any more than it will please people of the Middle East — Detroit Free Press.

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## English soccer season kicks off with trouble on and off the pitch

**LONDON (R)** — The new soccer season invaded the English summer Saturday, bringing with it the usual quota of entertainment and shame.

One-time England striker Kerry Dixon scored the first goal of the 1987-88 First Division campaign after five minutes in Chelsea's 1-1 home draw with Sheffield Wednesday, but Luton's Mick Harford had made a less notable impact 60 seconds earlier.

The combative striker became the first player to be shown the red card — reintroduced after an absence of six years — when he was ordered off for a brutal tackle on Derby fullback Mel Page.

In the Fourth Division, Scarborough "celebrated" their first appearance in an English League fixture with a visit from one-night Wolverhampton Wanderers. But the match was marred by fighting on the terraces and a

Wolverhampton fan was taken to hospital after being given the kiss of life.

On the pitch, it was a similar story to last season as champions Everton made light of being without six first-team players to open their defence with a 1-0 home win over Norwich, fullback Paul Power scoring the only goal after 35 minutes.

Liverpool, who finished 1986-87 without a trophy and then lost Ian Rush to Juventus, made a splendid start with a 2-1 win at Arsenal, their League Cup final conquerors last season, thanks to an 87th minute winner by Scottish international defender Steve Nicol.

Fielding their new four million sterling (\$6.3 million) attack of

John Aldridge and England forwards Peter Beardsley and John Barnes for the first time, Liverpool made an impressive start at Highbury.

Aldridge opened the scoring in the ninth minute after Beardsley and Barnes created the opening and, although Paul Davis equalised after 17 minutes, Liverpool's fighting qualities were rewarded when Nicol headed home from all of 15 metres during a goalmouth scramble.

Though Chelsea, 2-1 winners over Wednesday, and newly-promoted Derby, who beat Luton 1-0, could be dangerous dark horses, Tottenham and Manchester United should provide the main challenge to Everton, Liverpool and Arsenal despite disappointing starts.

Tottenham, now without Glenn Hoddle who is playing with Monaco in the French First

Division, were involved in an F.A. Cup final rematch at Coventry who have been reinforced by the signing of Scotland striker David Speedie from Chelsea.

And Speedie, who cost £750,000 (\$1.2 million), wasted no time in making his mark for his new club with a goal after 21 minutes. Coventry fullback Greg Downes made it 2-0 before the interval and Gary Mabbutt scored a consolation goal for Tottenham near the end.

Manchester United shared four goals in a 2-2 draw at Southampton, Northern Ireland international Norman Whiteside scoring both United goals with Danny Wallace twice replying for home Glasgow Rangers' miserable start in the Scottish Premier League continued at Aberdeen where they lost 2-0 to leave them with just one point from the opening three games.

## Piquet on pole position for Austrian Grand Prix

**ZELTWEG, Austria (R)** — World Championship leader Nelson Piquet clinched pole position for Sunday's Austrian Grand Prix with the minimum of effort after torrential rain reduced final practice to a test of men and machinery on Saturday.

The Brazilian, who took provisional pole place Friday with a time of one minute 23.357 seconds, recorded 1:49.991 on a slowly-drying circuit and then predicted engines and tyres would be taken to the limit on the high-speed Osterreichring. "I will be happy to finish in the first three," said Piquet, who celebrates his 35th birthday on Monday. "That would be good for my points. With only six races to go, I only need three more results."

Piquet leads the title race with 48 points after nine of the season's 16 races. He is seven ahead of fellow-Brazilian Ayrton Senna, whom he will replace at Lotus next season, and 18 ahead of Williams teammate Nigel Mansell of Britain and world champion Alain Prost of France in a McLaren.

Piquet warned that the race would be particularly tough on turbo engines.

"We are at 600 metres altitude and the turbo-charger has to work very hard to keep up the pressure. It's very difficult to finish a race here in one piece," he said.

He added that he planned to make at least one pit stop for tyres and said he had difficulty finding the right balance so far on the bumpy circuit.

Mansell, who will start his 100th Grand Prix Sunday, was the quickest driver by a clear margin in Saturday's conditions. He recorded 1:33.779 on slick tyres in the final 10 minutes — more than four seconds better than Austrian Gerhard Berger, next quickest on his home circuit in a Ferrari.

Mansell said he was still in pain after having a wisdom tooth out on Thursday but said his driving was unaffected.

He will line up alongside Piquet on the front row ahead of Berger, the Benetton of Belgium, Thierry Boutsen and Italian Teo Fabi and the second Ferrari driven by Italian Michele Alboreto.

Neither Prost nor Senna was able to do anything about improving his time on a track which Piquet's lap record at an average of 256.621 kph on Friday established as the fastest in current use.

Senna will start from the fourth row and Prost from the fifth. Both were unhappy Saturday not to have the chance to test revised settings in dry conditions and may struggle in a race likely to be dominated by the Williams, Ferraris and Benettons.

The Austrian Grand Prix is the tenth of the season's 16 races and Prost and Mansell, sharing third place with 30 points, are beginning to lose touch with Brazilians Nelson Piquet and Ayrton Senna, with 48 and 41 points respectively.

## U.S. team reaps half of Pan Am golds

**INDIANAPOLIS (Agencies)** — The United States turned up the heat in the medals race and sizzled in the pool while Cuban fighters, stung by demonstrators' taunts, brawled at a boxing match.

American owned nearly half of all gold medals awarded so far — 98 of 201 — and 232 medals overall.

On Friday, they won 17 more, including six in swimming and three in wrestling, and now find themselves dueling with Canada instead of Cuba as the closest medals' rival.

Canada slipped into the number 2 spot by amassing 110 medals, six more than Cuba.

Cuba protesters, low-key since a scuffle at a baseball game last Sunday, were back Friday night. This time Cuban boxers dealt with them. There was an arrest and injuries.

Angered when they saw several anti-Castro protesters ripping apart their flag, nearly a dozen

Cuban fighters raced 20 rows into the stands at the convention centre, grabbed at least two people and pummeled them.

A furious fistfight then broke out at the Cuban boxers and three Cuban exiles who taunted the fighters with an anti-Castro group's flag.

Police Saturday said three people were injured and one spectator arrested for disorderly conduct at Friday night's Pan Am Games boxing matches.

Witnesses told Reuters the fracas started when three anti-Castro exiles — two men and a woman — started waving a flag in the audience at a convention centre boxing-ring.

Indianapolis Police Spokeswoman Barbara Sinclair said the fight centred around the flag of the Cuba Independently Democratic (CID) Movement. "Athletes came into the stands and the fight continued," Sinclair said.

CID is a group headed by commander Huber Matos, a former lieutenant of Cuban President Fidel Castro, whom Castro ordered imprisoned for more than 20 years after the 1959 revolution.

The group is based in Miami and has offices in Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Madrid and several large U.S. cities.

Eyewitnesses said the brawl started during the ninth fight of the night, as Canada's Marc Menard faced Argentina's Jorge Migliasso.

The witnesses said Cuban security agents approached the exiles waving the flag and appeared to wait for the Cuban boxers to arrive.

One witness, who saw the fighting from a few metres away but asked not to be identified, said the security agents made room for the Cuban boxers to start punching the exiles, both described as middle-aged men.

## Athlete positively dope tested but escapes sanctions

**MOULINS, France (R)** — A modern pentathlete who was positively dope tested during the 1986 World Championships has escaped sanctions because papers accompanying his sample went missing, the secretary general of the sport's governing body, Thor Henning of Sweden, said Saturday.

Random tests at the men's championships in Montecatini, Italy, last year showed 12 athletes had taken drugs.

The winner, Anatoly Starostin of the Soviet Union, was stripped of his title and banned from competing for 30 months along with the 11 others, plus three Poles who had been positively

tested at the qualifying competition in Birmingham, England.

But only 11 names from Montecatini were made public and Henning confirmed Saturday that the papers accompanying one sample had gone missing, resulting in one athlete escaping sanctions.

On Friday angry delegates at the annual Congress of the International Union of Modern Pentathlon and Biathlon, which ended early Saturday, attacked the union's executive board over the mixup and the board's failure to inform members of the problem.

Eivind-Bø Sørensen, president of the Danish Modern Pentathlon Association, accused the union's leaders of covering up the mistake and the name of the athlete.

"How dare you treat us like this?" he asked. "We can no longer have confidence in you if you give us no information."

Henning told Reuters if anybody had firm evidence about the athlete involved they should present it to the union which would decide whether sanctions could be imposed.

The congress also agreed to maintain the 30-month ban on competitors found to have used drugs after deciding not to vote on a motion to reduce the ban to 18 months.

## Blind sailor resting while boat repaired

**ST. GEORGE, Bermuda (AP)** — Tired from riding out a tropical storm, blind sailor Jim Dickson rested Saturday in Bermuda while his boat was repaired for the resumption of his attempt to cross the Atlantic.

The 41-year-old mariner docked in this port Friday, his sloop guided through rough seas and Bermuda's treacherous reefs by its designer.

He had left Portsmouth, Rhode Island, on Aug. 4, bound for Plymouth, England, in his attempt to be the first blind person to make the crossing. But he had to head for this tiny British colony, 200 miles (320 km) out of his way, when his talking computer and autopilot broke down.

The side trip was lengthened by tropical storm Arlene, which Dickson had to ride out at sea Thursday, about 60 miles (100 km) north of Bermuda.

Paul Petronello, whose Rhode Island company designed Dickson's 36-foot (11-m) sloop eye opener, boarded the vessel shortly after noon Friday and guided it to St. George, a port at the north end of Bermuda.

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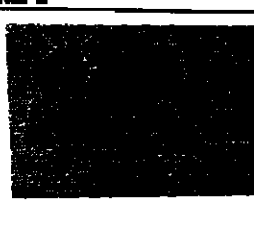
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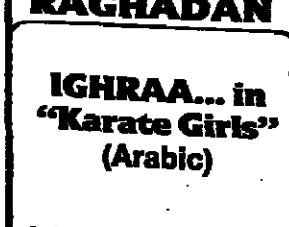
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## N. Zealand Labour wins elections

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand's ruling Labour Party was swept back into power Saturday for a second three year term.

Opposition leader Jim Bolger conceded defeat in a telephone call to Prime Minister David Lange three hours after the polls closed.

"Congratulations you have obviously got the numbers to carry the burden for the next three years," Mr. Bolger said. "Best of luck, and best of luck for New Zealand."

"What a remarkable country, what remarkable judgment," a beaming Lange later told cheering supporters in his Auckland constituency.

The election was fought largely on Labour's economic reforms, and rural areas most affected in the restructuring stayed with National Labour did best in the big cities.

The Democratic Party lost the

two seats it held in the old parliament.

"This is a country which grew up economically, it used its head," Mr. Lange said.

It was the first time since 1946 that a Labour administration had won a second term, although the victory was no surprise after the party's strong showing in opinion polls.

Provisional figures gave Labour a majority of 15, two fewer than in the old 95-seat parliament. They indicated that the party will have 56 seats in the new 97-seat parliament against 41 for National.

Labour won 47.6 per cent of votes cast Saturday, National 45, the Democrats 6.9 and the New Zealand Party 0.3 per cent. These figures could change marginally

when postal votes are counted. Commentators noted a trend against Labour in seats held by cabinet ministers.

National needed a swing of 3.9 per cent in the election to win a one-seat majority. It achieved the swing, but mostly in constituencies held by cabinet ministers with large majorities.

Education Minister Russell Marshall held his Wanganui seat by 27 votes, but Labour was within a few hundred votes of winning two true-blue National seats, Remuera in Auckland and Fendallton in Christchurch.

Such changes in fortune reflected the upheaval in New Zealand politics over the past three years as millionaires and businessmen joined workers in lining up behind Labour.

Mr. Bolger said in a television interview that he thought Labour had successfully sold to voters the idea that it needed more time to complete economic reforms.

"There's been no success up to now ... I think the next three years for the Labour Party will depend very much on whether they do produce results as promised."

Mr. Lange, also on television, said "the whole of New Zealand knew we had to change, and they recognised that we had been as compassionate as we could be in moving people through that change."

"It has changed the nature of the New Zealand electorate to a very economically literate, mature electorate," he said.

Finance Minister Roger Douglas said he was pleased at the "sense of realism" shown by New Zealanders.

"I have always believed the New Zealand public were realistic. They knew deep down, irrespective of political allegiance, that what we were doing was basically in the best interests of the nation," he said.

## Typhoon Betty kills 44 people in Philippines

MANILA (R) — At least 44 people were killed and thousands left homeless after typhoon Betty cut across the central Philippines before veering towards Vietnam, officials said Saturday.

While teams surveyed damage and stepped up relief work, weathermen said storm Cary has intensified into a typhoon and was now 380 miles from Cagayan, the country's northernmost region.

Reports reaching the office of civil defence said 34 people were killed by Betty in four provinces on Luzon and Visayas islands.

The office said the highest count was reported in Sorsogon province, about 400 kilometres south east of Manila, where 16 people were killed, two injured and four missing.

More than 20,000 families from Sorsogon lost their homes and some parts of the province were still in darkness after strong winds toppled electric posts, it said.

The Red Cross also reported 10 killed in three central provinces when typhoon Betty hit on Wednesday.

Officials said teams were providing food and other goods to at least 30,000 displaced families now housed in school buildings. Work on damaged roads and houses has also started, they said.

Local officials estimate damage to property at 150 million pesos (\$7.5 million). There were still no estimates of damage to crops.

Weathermen, meanwhile, hoisted typhoon signals in six northern provinces as Cary, packing maximum winds of 120 kph (75 mph), moved towards the country.

They forecast that by Saturday night, Cary would be 300 miles south east of Aparri, Cagayan.

They said the six provinces in the path of the new typhoon were experiencing occasional rains and gusty winds and coastal waters were moderate to rough.

## 10 Muslim rebels killed in southern Philippines

CAGAYAN DE ORO, Philippines (R) — Philippine troops killed 10 Muslim rebels by blowing up their motor boat with artillery fire, the army said Saturday.

The guerrillas were trying to burst through a military cordon Friday round the small southern island of Balot, where 100 rebels are holding 16 hostages, Col. Anthony Elias told reporters.

He said a civilian negotiating for the release of the 12 students, three education workers and a professor from Mindanao State University, who were abducted on Aug. 7, was on the island at the time.

The military said Friday they would give the kidnappers, who want 25 million pesos (\$1.25 million) in ransom, three days to surrender.

Col. Elias said an earlier rebel attempt to break through the cordon was turned back by infantry fire and that the rebels were unable to bring in food supplies.

Twenty motor boats have sealed off the island in Lanao Del Sur province.

Kidnapping in the region has become widespread and victims have included foreign tourists and missionaries.

## Sri Lanka accuses Tamil rebels of violating truce

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan military officials accused Tamil rebels Saturday of shooting at police in violation of the island's peace accord and said Indian peacekeeping troops were investigating.

They added that plans to lift emergency rule Saturday in the north and east might be shelved because of the slow pace at which guerrillas were surrendering arms.

The emergency legislation, first passed by parliament in 1983 to contain the Tamil separatist re-

bellion and extended every month since, gives police wide powers.

"If it is lifted the powers of the Sri Lankan army and the Indian troops will be affected, and we lose our hold on the return of the weapons," one official said.

The law was due to be lifted in the north and east, where the rebellion is concentrated, under the terms of the July 29 pact signed by President Junius Jayawardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

## Swiss helped finance ANC talks with S. Africans

BERNE (R) — Switzerland helped finance last month's meeting in Senegal between white South African liberals and members of the banned African National Congress (ANC), a government spokesman said Saturday.

Berne contributed the equivalent of \$29,000 with the remaining \$150,000 coming from the Norwegian, Swedish and Danish governments as well as a number of individual groups, he said.

The aim was "to further dialogue between the various political directions in South Africa," the spokesman said.

In a speech on Thursday, South African President P.W. Botha strongly criticised the white liberals who took part in the meeting and attacked the foreign states which helped fund it. He did not name them.

The ANC, which is fighting to end white rule in South Africa, is described by South African authorities as a Communist-backed terrorist organisation.

A white South African dissident leader vowed Friday to continue talks with the ANC despite South African President P.W. Botha's threats.

## Duarte rejects rebel talks proposal

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte has said his government could not agree to peace talks with leftist rebels under the conditions proposed by the guerrillas.

Mr. Duarte told reporters Friday the rebels ignored key government stipulation in accepting his proposal for peace negotiations in September.

He said that in order for the government to accept a meeting with Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) rebels, the guerrillas would have to publicly renounce violence as a means of gaining power.

"The day that they say that violence is not an instrument for taking power and that they want to incorporate themselves into the democratic process, I will immediately meet with them," Mr. Duarte said.

He said, however, that he was not insisting the rebels lay down their arms as a precondition to talks.

Mr. Duarte reiterated his stance outlined Thursday night in a nationally televised speech that the rebels must publicly accept by Aug. 30 a regional peace plan signed last week by Mr. Duarte and four other Central American presidents.

In a communique broadcast over local radio this morning, the rebels said they would agree to meet government officials on Sept. 15 in San Salvador.

The rebel statement, however, did not mention any intention of renouncing their armed struggle and fell short of a full acceptance of the Central American peace accord.

Despite his rejection, Mr. Duarte said Friday's rebel communique was a step forward.

"It's a good start that they are saying, 'We are ready to talk,' but it is not sufficient," he said.

## Nicaraguan envoy: Habib quits out of frustration

WASHINGTON (AP) — Philip Habib is returning to private life after 16 months as special U.S. envoy to Central America, a period in which he often found himself at odds with the administration.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said Mr. Habib, 67, decided to leave because of recent gains in the Central American peace process. But other officials and the Nicaraguan ambassador to the United States said the veteran envoy left out of frustration.

Mr. Habib, with strong support from Secretary of State George Shultz, reportedly wanted to negotiate directly with the Sandinista government in Nicaragua. He was overruled by President Ronald Reagan.

Nicaragua's ambassador, Carlos Tunnerman, praised Mr. Habib on Friday as "perhaps one of the most able negotiators the United States has."

"He was appointed to promote a negotiated solution that in two years was noticeable for its absence, and now that there exists a possibility through the (Guatemala) accord, the ambassador resigns," Mr. Tunnerman said in a telephone interview with Nicaragua's Radio Sandino.

The accord — signed last week by the presidents of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala — calls for democratic reform in Nicaragua, a ceasefire and an end to U.S. aid to the contra rebels there.

Mr. Habib was one of the nation's most seasoned diplomats and his sudden resignation apparently ends a State Department career that began in 1949.

Since the spring of 1986, Mr.

move by Nicaragua to drag out the peace process in order to cut off the contra's financial lifeline. The current \$100-million allocation expires on Sept. 30.

Mr. Fitzwater said the United States "will not desert the contra," but added that every effort will be turned toward the peace initiative.

In Managua, opposition leaders Friday urged the Nicaraguan government to comply with a Central American peace accord, but they said they were pessimistic about the prospects for peace and democracy here.

The call for compliance with the peace treaty came in a statement issued by the Democratic coordinator, a loose alliance of opposition political parties, Nicaragua's leading business group and two independent labour unions.

"We urge the government of the FSLN (the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front) to comply with the accords ... and we point out that this is its last opportunity to save the Nicaraguan people from the butchery of war," it said.

It said the Guatemalan accord required the Sandinista government to restore civil liberties — suspended under state-of-emergency law — and lift its restrictions on political activity.

President Daniel Ortega and other senior government officials have said they are prepared to carry out the democratic reforms required within 90 days of the peace treaty's signing.

They have insisted, however, the reforms are contingent on an end to U.S. support for anti-Sandinista rebels.

## Gandhi marks Independence Day urging end to violence, corruption

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi celebrated the country's 40th anniversary Saturday with a call for an end to corruption and communal violence and a promise that nobody would starve in independent India.

"Our forefathers handed down to us a free India. It is now for us to defend this hard-won freedom," said Mr. Gandhi, speaking from the ramparts of Delhi's Red Fort, the bastion of the Mogul emperors who preceded the British as rulers of India.

His 70-minute speech delivered in Hindi to a smaller crowd than expected, referred repeatedly to the threat posed by political and religious extremism.

Evidently alluding to violence in Punjab where Sikhs are fighting for a separate state and Hindu-Muslim riots in northern India, the prime minister said India was not going to be cowed by the threats of those who were trying to create an atmosphere of hatred.

"We will not allow them to succeed nor rest until such forces are wiped out and extremism eliminated or the extremists have

surrendered," he declared.

"Communism has no place in India," said Mr. Gandhi, urging people to retaliate against extremism but to recall the example of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of independent India, who led the country to freedom with a policy of meeting violence with non-violence.

Mr. Gandhi's speech ranged over India's achievements since independence — notably those under the leadership of his grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru, and his mother, Indira Gandhi — and his hopes for a future free of the "corruption, nepotism, laziness and inefficiency that are impeding the growth of our society."

Mr. Gandhi spoke of his government's efforts to better the lot of the poor, reduce urban and rural unemployment and raise agricultural and industrial productivity.

He devoted a large section of his speech to the drought affecting large areas of central and northern India.

"India has never witnessed drought of this magnitude," Mr. Gandhi said, calling for national

cooperation to combat its effects, but saying India would face it without outside help.

"This is the time when the well-off people should come to the help of their less fortunate brethren," he said.

Recalling that the "green revolution" under his mother's rule had transformed India's food prospects, Mr. Gandhi said nobody would be allowed to starve.

"We have sufficient buffer stocks of foodgrains to feed the people in every corner of the country," he said. "India can take in its stride droughts like the one currently stalking the country."

Turning to last month's accord between India and Sri Lanka aimed at ending the Tamil rebellion, Mr. Gandhi described it as "one of the major achievements of the past 40 years, and a measure of the success of India's foreign policy."

He said it had brought peace not only to Sri Lanka but also to the entire region, strengthened the Non-Aligned Movement and saved South Asia from superpower rivalry.

## White House shrugs off fears about Reagan safety

SANTA BARBARA, California (R) — The White House is publicly shrugging off fears about President Reagan's safety after his helicopter was involved in a near miss with a small plane piloted by an army private who was absent without leave.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said Friday it will prosecute the 33-year-old private who was piloting the intruding plane near Mr. Reagan's mountaintop ranch.

Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater gave no indication of how badly security officials had been shaken by Thursday's incident when he faced a battery of questions about it Friday.

Instead he described the near miss as something that could happen any time during one of Mr. Reagan's frequent helicopter and plane flights and said it was impossible to guard against in a country where the skies are free and used by thousands of private pilots.

"It's open air space. You can't build a fence. It's America. You can fly anywhere," Mr. Fitzwater told reporters here.

But White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker said in a radio interview he and Mr. Reagan were grateful the close call did not "produce any other result."

Mr. Baker admitted that "there's a fair amount of danger when a plane comes that close to a helicopter."

The pilot of the Piper Archer aircraft was identified by an army spokesman Friday as private Ralph Myers, a medic and a former aircraft maintenance specialist who had been absent without leave from the Fort Lewis Military Base in Washington state since Aug. 3.

Myers, who had been questioned for hours on Thursday and released, was jailed on Friday night in southern California on a charge of being absent without leave from the army.

The FAA said Myers had had his pilot's licence revoked and was expected to face a battery of charges including flying in the restricted area of Mr. Reagan's ranch, flying too low and flying recklessly.

Myers and a passenger were apprehended at John Wayne Airport near Los Angeles and questioned for seven hours by the secret service after their plane was followed and identified by another Marine helicopter attached to the White House.

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They have insisted, however, the reforms are contingent on an end to U.S. support for anti-Sandinista rebels.

## COLUMNS 7&8

### 9-year-old boy to enter university

LONDON (R) — A nine-year-old boy became the youngest Briton ever to pass an advanced national examination normally sat at the age of 18 to gain entry to university. John Adams, one of seven children, passed the Associated Examining Board's "A" level pure mathematics exam, involving such subjects as hyperbolic functions and complex arithmetic progressions, education officials said. He completed the first of his two papers 40 minutes early. A special desk and chair had to be found for Adams, a pupil at a state primary school in Leicestershire, central England, as those in the examination centre were too big. The boy, whose father is a maths teacher, beat the record of fellow prodigy Ruth Lawrence, who took her maths "A" level at nine years and 10 months before going on to win a first-class honours degree at Oxford University at the age of 13. Adams said his ambition was also to go to Oxford and to become a professor of mathematics.

### Cow injures 4 in downtown rampage

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — A cow jumped off a cattle truck and went on a rampage in downtown Amsterdam Friday, injuring four people before a zoo worker knocked it out with a sedative, police said. The driver of the cattle truck had not properly locked his vehicle's rear door, enabling the cow to jump off in the middle of the busy Haarlemmerplein Square, according to police spokesman Klass Wilting. The cow charged and injured four bystanders, he said, adding that a woman had to grab her baby from its carriage to rescue it from the animal. The carriage was in smithereens only moments later. Wilting said. Two of the injured required hospitalisation, he said. "Ultimately we brought in a man from (the Amsterdam Zoo) Artis with a tranquilliser gun," Wilting told the Associated Press, adding that it was "too dangerous" for police to attempt to shoot the animal with a pistol. The cow was then brought to the slaughterhouse where the animal was headed when it jumped the truck, he said. "I don't suppose it's of this world any more," Wilting said of the cow's fate there.

### Heat wave silences Beirut Radio

BEIRUT (R) — A summer heat wave silenced state-owned Beirut Radio and caused its first extended shutdown in 51 years of broadcasting. "All the wires in the transmitter have rotted because we don't have air conditioning," Ayoub Hmayed, secretary-general of Lebanon's Information Ministry, told a news conference shortly before the radio went off the air. Newspapers had complained of intense heat in the studio and some technicians had fainted on duty. Mr. Hmayed said the ministry did not have the money to buy a new transmitter. Technicians hoped to repair the old one within five or six days, he said. In the meantime, Lebanon will not be starved for news. Its airwaves are crowded by dozens of commercial radio stations run by rival militias and power groups.

### Elephants run amok in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A herd of about 20 wild elephants rampaged through a village in northwest Indonesia, causing widespread damage to fruit trees but no casualties, the official Antara News Agency said Saturday. Mayor T. Ibrahim Daud told the news agency the elephants stormed into his village of Lamboro Tuong on Thursday from a nearby forest and uprooted or damaged more than 1,000 papaya, banana and coconut trees. The village is on the island of Sumatra, 1,062 miles (1,709 kilometres) north west of Jakarta. Mr. Daud said it was the third such elephant attack from the forest in two months and that village officials had no idea why the attacks were occurring.

### 600 kg omelette certified as world's largest

PADRON, Spain (AP) — The Guinness Book of World Records has certified a 600-kilo (1,320-pound) Spanish omelette as the world's largest, the chef said Friday. Chef Jose Antonio Ribera said he needed a 20-tonne crane to flip the 5,000-egg concoction. Ribera, who owns a restaurant in the north western coastal town of Padron, said he got a letter from a Guinness representative certifying the omelette as the largest ever prepared. He said it will be the 1988 edition of the record book. Before certifying the omelette, Guinness investigated a British claim, he said. The claim was discounted when it turned out to involve a "French-style" omelette, which is stirred rather than flipped. Spanish omelettes, known locally as "tortillas," consist of a base of sliced fried potatoes with beaten eggs poured over them and are flipped during cooking.

### Rare medical condition causes unruly hair

CHICAGO (AP) — A rare, apparently inherited disorder gives some children's hair the appearance of spun glass and makes combing an impossible task, a researcher says. "The hair is unmanageable and flies all over the place. It's very upsetting to mothers because they can't comb the kid's hair," said Dr. Robert G. Crouse, associate dean for the basic sciences at East Carolina University School of Medicine in Greenville, North Carolina. The cause of the syndrome, "spun silk hair," which affects both male and female children, is not yet known, Dr. Crouse said. The incidence is also unknown, but "probably not more than a few dozen cases exist in the United States," he said. Only the hair on the child's head is affected. "The child's hair resembles the frizzies his mother may have gotten from a bad permanent. Only there hasn't been any permanent," said Dr. Crouse, author of one of two articles on the rare disorder in the August issue of Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. "This is a curiosity, a very impressive condition," said Dr. Allan Lorz, professor and head of the section of dermatology of the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. The children's hair is very straight and sticks out in all directions. "It looks like the most wild kind of hairdo," Dr. Lorz said. "You can't comb it down. It just bounces back into that self-determined style."

### Village wins appeal in contested will case

CINCINNATI, Ohio (AP) — A Greek village is the rightful heir to most of the fortune left by a Greek millionaire who lived frugally in Cincinnati before he died, a state appeals court has ruled. The 1st Ohio District Court of Appeals upheld a jury's decision Thursday that Mexiate, a village north of Athens, should get most of the fortune left by Steven Zonas, a native of the village. Zonas came to Cincinnati in the early 1900s. Those who knew him say he didn't spend much money, wore tattered suit jackets and lived in a \$100-a-month hotel room. He owned a small restaurant for a time and later washed dishes and cooked chili. However, he left nearly \$1.6 million in stocks when he died in 1980 at age 87. Attorneys say dividends and interest put his estate at more than \$2 million. A jury in a county probate court decided last year that a will purportedly signed by Zonas in Chicago a month before his death was a forgery. That document named Emie Doland, a former manager of a restaurant where Zonas received free meals, executor of the estate. The will accepted by the jury was made in secret when Zonas visited Greece in July 1980. It referred to a 1972 will written in Cincinnati that left nearly all Zonas' money to the sick and underprivileged of his native village. George Trubulas, a nephew of Zonas and a heir in the Greek will, came from Greece to challenge the Chicago will in probate court. Donald did not appeal the jury's finding.

### Policemen remanded on murder charge

HONG KONG (R) — A chief inspector and three Hong Kong policemen were remanded in custody on murder charges. Court officials said Chief Inspector Tang Wai Kwong, constables Tang Wai Ming, Tam Bin and Lam Lap Tat, had been remanded until Aug. 22. The charges follow the death from internal injuries of 28-year-old Woo Fong Chun, who was taken to hospital by his wife and two men after a fight outside a restaurant.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF  
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### HISTORY FOR SALE

Neither vulnerable. South deals.  
NORTH  
♠ 7 6  
♥ 8  
♦ Q J 10 9 8  
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The bidding:  
South West North East  
4♥ Double Pass Pass  
5♣ Pass Pass Pass  
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